

TOMORROW

Stand-in mothers
As MPs debate surrogate motherhood Nicholas Timmins talks to a woman planning to have her sister's baby

Picture power
Lord Snowdon pays a tribute to the veteran photographer Irving Penn

Splendid isolation
Why Britain should leave Unesco and other international bodies

Hard-hitting
Simon Barnes talks to a neurologist and likens boxing to cock-fighting

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Mr Peter Brereton of East Horsley, Surrey, and Mr Joshua Green of Cannon Hill, London, each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 26; how to play, information service, back page.

Labour split on council law-breaking

The Shadow Cabinet is to attempt to resolve deep divisions, which extend throughout the Parliamentary Labour Party, over law-breaking by Labour Councils in defiance of the Government's spending curbs. Opposing views by two members of the Shadow Cabinet have illustrated the depth of the division. **Page 2**

Paris anger at Chad mix-up

As France and the United States issued contradictory figures on Libyan troops still stationed in Chad, the French Government's handling of the Chad affair is being widely criticized by the Opposition. President Mitterrand's credibility could be at stake. **Page 6**

Student killed

Tension rose in the West Bank after Israeli troops killed a student from Bir Zeit university demonstrating with others in support of the PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat. **Page 6**

Archway ruling

The Government has called a halt to public inquiries into the Archway road scheme in north London. Four inquiries have had to be abandoned, mainly because of disruption.

Times stamps

The Post Office unveiled a special £5 booklet of postage stamps to mark the Bicentenary of *The Times* next year. They will go on sale on January 8. **Back page**

General shot

A Spanish general was "very grave" after being shot by two suspected Basque terrorists in Madrid. Only 15 hours earlier, a Basque politician was murdered. **Page 8**

Marcos on view

The presidential palace in Manila released a photograph of a smiling President Marcos reading a newspaper to quell rumours he was dying or dead, though his wife confirmed he had been ill. **Page 6**

Fowler's 116

England were 231 for one at the close of the first day of their match against India's West Zone. Fowler scored 116 and Robinson 92 not out. **Page 28**

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Shultz - Gromyko talks expected early next year

● The United States expect arms talks early in the new year between Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

● A second initiative to get the superpowers talking again has been made by Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister.

● Against this background of growing optimism about East-West relations, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, arrived in Moscow last night for a five-day visit.

● One shadow over the diplomatic scene was the cancellation of a visit to Poland by West Germany's Foreign Minister (Page 5).

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Soviet Union has proposed to the United States an early meeting between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to examine ways of resuming arms control negotiations.

The proposal was contained in a message sent from Moscow last weekend, just after President Chernomir had publicly called for a return to the era of détente between the countries.

Mr Shultz has repeatedly made clear that he is ready to sit down with Mr Gromyko and engage in real negotiations on arms control.

The time, date and agenda for the Shultz-Gromyko meeting still has to be worked out, but American officials yesterday said they expected it to take place early in the new year, probably in Moscow.

The message is the latest indication that the two superpowers are edging towards a resumption of nuclear arms talks suspended since the end of last year. It comes at a time when the Soviet Union has

decided to adopt a more energetic policy towards the West. Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, widely regarded as the number two man in the Kremlin, is to hold talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London next month.

The Soviet Union has also agreed to send a delegation to Australia early in the new year to discuss arms control issues. The United States is planning to send a similar mission, although US officials said it was most unlikely the two delegations would meet.

Despite the clear signals from both Washington and Moscow in favour of an early resumption of nuclear arms talks, the two countries continue to have different priorities.

Moscow primarily is interested in talks on banning the militarization of space. It has proposed a moratorium on testing all new space weapons in an attempt to halt the recently initiated test programme of a new American anti-satellite weapon. The United States has

refused to agree on a freeze in advance of negotiations.

For its part, Washington wants to reopen the INF and start talks on reducing the two sides' arsenals of intermediate-range and strategic nuclear missiles. The Soviet Union has boycotted both rounds of talks in Geneva ever since it walked out of the INF talks a year ago following the deployment of New American medium-range missiles in Europe.

The US has proposed putting all these issues under one "umbrella" as a way of breaking the deadlock and getting talks going again.

● MOSCOW: President Chernomir, in a statement published yesterday strongly advocated détente (AP reports).

In a message to Austrian readers of an edition of his speeches published in Austria, Mr Chernomir warmly recalled the Soviet-American summit in Vienna in 1979 and said détente was "a natural state" of relations between countries.

A text of the message was distributed by Tass.

Hawke plays the mediator

Initiative on arms deadlock

From Alan Hamilton, Sydney

Australia announced yesterday that it hoped to play a role in persuading the United States and Soviet Union to resume the Geneva arms limitation talks.

As the result of a diplomatic initiative by Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, the two superpowers have agreed to send teams of experts to Australia early in the new year for talks with the Canberra Government. Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, said, February is mentioned as a likely date.

Political figures from the two countries will not be involved, and there is no certainty that the two sides will actually meet, or even be present at the same time.

Mr Hawke has spent 18 months arranging the meetings. President Reagan indicated two

months ago his willingness to send a senior delegation. Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is understood to have contacted Canberra on Tuesday to say his Government was also prepared to send a team.

The announcement is a significant propaganda victory for Mr Hawke, who expects his Labour Party to make an effortless return to power in the general election on December 1, but who has been let down by the surprisingly good opinion poll showing of Australia's fledgling Nuclear Disarmament Party.

Some Labour supporters have become disillusioned at the party's changed nuclear stance. When in opposition, its stated policy favoured the removal of US bases from

Australia and an end to uranium mining.

Since coming to power, however, the party has reversed most of its left-wing defence policies.

Mr Hawke said today the meetings with the superpowers would provide "a moral and political lead" for resumed arms negotiations. Significantly, as the announcement was being made, the Australian delegation to the United Nations for the first time supported a motion calling for a nuclear arms freeze.

Mrs Jean Melzer, one of the founders of the Nuclear Disarmament Party, said yesterday the existence of her new movement had been largely responsible for forcing Mr Hawke to pursue his peace initiative.

Longbridge vote to end strike

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

A mass meeting of workers at Austin Rover's Longbridge car plant yesterday ignored a rear-guard action by shop stewards and voted overwhelmingly to end their two-and-a-half-weeks-old pay strike.

Shop stewards had tried to persuade the 11,000 workers that although every other plant had not returned to work these could not continue if Longbridge stayed out.

Mr Jack Adams, the plant convenor, said: "Longbridge is central to the whole Austin Rover operation. No one can work for long without Longbridge." But when the vote was taken, only a handful of workers supported him.

Last night, an Austin Rover spokesman said: "We are satisfied that all plants will now resume full production, since we are confident that what the majority of employees wanted all along. We should not forget that if the unions joint negotiating committee had agreed to have a secret ballot in the first place, then this strike would never have happened."

Seven-day trading backed by Thatcher

By Anthony Bevins and Robin Young

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has thrown her weight fully behind the proposal to legalize seven-day, round-the-clock shopping by 1986. The Prime Minister is convinced that despite the threat to some corner shops, the change would benefit the consumer and create thousands more jobs in the retail industry.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, was reluctant to support the plans for reform, if only because of the expected backlash from its opponents but it is understood that he is now prepared to sponsor a Bill for

the next session of Parliament, in a year's time.

The next target for reform is liquor licensing, and lobbying is already under way among Conservatives in the Commons to bring licensing laws in England and Wales into line with the greater freedom allowed in Scotland.

A government committee of inquiry yesterday presented an unreserved recommendation that all restrictions on shop hours should be repealed. The committee was appointed last August after the failure of Mrs Thatcher's previous attempt in the last eight years to reform Britain's anomalous shop hours legislation.

Its findings have caused fury among Sunday trading opponents.

Usdaw, the shopworkers' union, described its members as "furious"; the Roman Catholic Church said that total deregulation would be "very worrying"; and Mr Alfred Morris, chairman of the Co-operative group of MPs, said that the proposals went "beyond the reasonable requirements of consumers".

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Howe faces MPs' revolt over foreign aid cuts

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government faces a substantial rebellion in the Commons tonight over cuts in the Foreign Office's 1985-86 budget resulting from the recently completed public expenditure review.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who has been trying to squeeze more money out of the Treasury to add to the already announced figure of £1,870m, seems unlikely to be able to satisfy the large number of Conservative MPs, in a debate on overseas aid initiated by the Liberal Party, who have been arguing that there should be no cuts in any part of the foreign budget.

The possibility of Sir Geoffrey offering a small concession today was not ruled out by MPs. It was thought last night that up to 50 MPs may abstain or vote against the Government.

Sir Geoffrey is to announce how the budget is to be allocated between overseas aid, the British Council, the BBC's External Services, diplomatic representation and military assistance overseas.

Feelings on the Conservative benches were running high last night. Officers of the backbench Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Sir Peter Baker, the chairman, met Sir Geoffrey

to demand that all the Foreign Office programmes should be maintained, but came away disappointed that he offered no indication that he would be able to satisfy them.

They were already angry over the refusal of the Prime Minister to meet them.

Last night MPs believed that the most Sir Geoffrey would give would be a reallocation of the budget to protect overseas aid expenditure with consequent cuts in the British Council, BBC's External Services and diplomatic representation.



On the way: Mr Healey, Mr Kinnock and his wife, Gléna, before leaving yesterday, with Mr Healey dressed for the part.

Red carpet for confident Kinnock

Leaving Mr Arthur Scargill and the miners' strike far behind on the other side of the Iron Curtain, Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, arrived in Moscow last night for talks in the Kremlin and received red-carpet treatment (Richard Owen writes).

The visit - his first as a communist country since becoming leader - is taking

place against a background of muted but growing optimism over the possible resumption of arms talks between East and West. He confirmed he would meet President Chernomir.

Mr Kinnock, whose Aeroflot flight landed 20 minutes late in freezing fog, was greeted by Mr Boris Ponomarev, a

Continued on back page, col 6

Bishops looking for pit peace agenda

By Paul Routledge and Clifford Longley

Church leaders are preparing the ground for an initiative to bring together the warring parties in the 37-week pit strike. The first step was taken yesterday in two hours of talks between national officials of the National Union of Mineworkers and top churchmen at the palace of the Archbishop of York.

The meeting brought together Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, and the union's general secretary, Mr Peter Hainfield, with Dr John Habgood, Archbishop of York, Archbishop Derek Worlock, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Simon Phipps, and the Rev Bernard Thoroughgood, general secretary of the United Reformed Church.

It emerged that the bishops are looking for an opening from the National Coal Board to discuss a possible agenda for negotiations between the parties.

Dr Habgood told a press conference at Church House, Westminster: "I hope that what we have said may encourage those who have these responsibilities to look again at the possibilities of talking." He hoped that the parties would get together on "a more realistic basis of negotiation".

The church leaders are particularly impressed by the prospects for peace talks based on a "third possible phrase" which has been offered to the two parties and which we understand has not yet been directly discussed between them.

"It seemed to us that it might offer a way forward for them, and eventually lead to a further review of the Plan For Coal. But there are grave difficulties, and we were disturbed by the apparent reluctance to discuss the principles on which the Plan

For Coal should be implemented", Dr Habgood said.

But the bishops are also extremely concerned about violence on the picket lines and the evident disinclination of NUM leaders to make their members conform to the TUC's code of conduct on picketing.

Dr Habgood said: "We understood that the union does not accept that the validity of the TUC guidelines on picketing. We believe that to abide by those guidelines with equivalent response by the police would be the best way of reducing violence."

The bishops' statement came at the end of a day that saw a further 824 strikers return, bringing the total to 4,126 this week and nearly 10,000 over the past 10 days.

It is understood that the four churchmen assessed the prospects of progress towards a

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solution as very forlorn, but they found the meeting very amicable. It was agreed that it would be useful to have further discussions with the NUM and with other interested parties if they signified an interest.

But the conference was an "off the record conversation", the churchmen insisted. "We talked in general terms about the dispute and its sad and damaging effect on the community as a whole," Dr Habgood said.

"Our main concern as churchmen must obviously be a pastoral one as we contemplate the deep divisions and hardship in our society. Our intention in arranging the meeting was to listen to representatives of the NUM in order to understand their case. Let me make it quite clear that we were not negotiating."

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Archbishop Worlock, the Right Rev Simon Phipps, the Rev. Bernard Thoroughgood and Dr John Habgood

Telecom 'cheats' in legal warning

By Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent

People who break the rules of the British Telecom share sale by putting in more than one application form each could be prosecuted for fraud, according to legal advice given to the Government.

This was confirmed yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry as the Government's City advisers stepped up efforts to prevent the offer being swamped by a flood of unwanted applications.

The prospectus for the £3,900m share sale spells out that an individual may put in only one application form each. This is the first time this has been included in a government privatization offer document.

The Government has already announced that the accountancy firm Peat Marwick Mitchell has been hired in an attempt to stop professional City punters or "stags" from lodging tens or even hundreds of applications each, as has happened in previous issues. However, these deterrents have been discounted by many City operators as little more than a publicity stunt, forcing the Government's merchant bank Kleinwort, Benson to redouble its efforts by invoking the threat of prosecution under the 1968 Theft Act.

A statement from Kleinwort's said: "The basic rule of the offer is one person, one application form. We, together with Peat Marwick Mitchell, will be policing the rule carefully. Anybody who breaks the rule should be aware of the consequences."

However, the legal position is far from clear-cut. The DTI said last night that the question raised difficult precedents of law. "We have not ruled out that certain practices could be fraudulent," said a spokesman.

Sterling loses 1.45 cents on oil price fears

The pound fell sharply yesterday as new fears of an oil price collapse hit the foreign exchange markets. (Our Economic Correspondent writes.) Sterling lost 1.45 cents to \$1.2265, having been down to \$1.2195 during the day. The pound fell by nearly three pence against the Deutsche mark to DM3.7050, and the sterling index was down 0.9 at 75.1.

Part of sterling's fall was due to dollar strength, but a 20 cent a barrel drop in spot market oil prices also contributed.

Last night in New York, however, the pound showed signs of recovery of \$1.2330. The pound's drop has raised doubts about further base rates cuts. On Monday, Barclays cut its rate from 10 to 9.75 per cent.

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Miners' families to lose much of increase in supplementary benefits

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Families of striking miners will see little or no increase in the basic rate of supplementary benefit when the rates go up next week, as a further £1 is to be deducted from their benefit.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister of State for Social Security, announced yesterday that the £15 being deducted from the supplementary benefit paid to miners' dependants, on the assumption that the union is paying strike pay, is to rise to £16 as the new benefit rates come in.

For a miner with a wife only, the £1 increase will swallow up the £1 increase in the rates paid to an adult dependant, leaving the benefit payable at £6.45.

For a miner with a wife and two children under 11, the move once the deduction is made will mean an increase of only 90p, to £25.65.

The deductions were first introduced in 1981 and are made regardless of whether strike pay is provided by the union. In the case of the miners' it is not.

The Department of Health and Social Security said the increase was provided for in social security legislation passed in 1980 under a formula which calculates the percentage increase which is then rounded to the nearest 50p.

No benefit is payable to strikers themselves, but supplementary benefit is paid to dependants, less the deduction. The increase will come under severe criticism from Labour MPs, who have accused the Government of manipulating the social security system to try to starve miners back to work.

Colliery face sealed off

● National Coal Board officials yesterday ordered the sealing of the main production face at a Yorkshire colliery, writing off £12m of coal reserves, more than £2m of equipment, and with the risk of 500 jobs being permanently lost (Peter Davenport writes).

The decision was taken because of an underground fire that has raged at the Acton Hall colliery, near Featherstone, for almost nine months. All efforts to contain the blaze, including trying to seal it with 1,000 tons of quick setting cement, have failed.

The board blamed the NUM for the loss of the B31's face. A spokesman said the union had continually refused to answer the NUM's appeal for striking miners to be allowed underground to help fight the fire.

"We thought this dispute was all about preserving and protecting jobs. We find this attitude astounding, and bordering on the suicidal."

The loss of the face at Acton Hall means that 500 of the 1,100 jobs at the pit will be lost.

The board said that it first requested NUM help to fight the fire nine months ago, but a local branch did not agree until two weeks ago. "We wanted 200 men, and they eventually sent 60. It was a case of too little, too late."

It is the ninth production face to be lost in the Yorkshire coalfield as a direct result of the dispute, together with equipment valued at £25m.

In the coalfields yesterday, there was more sporadic violence as the drift back to work continued, but the police in Yorkshire said they believed much of it was being caused by gangs of youths, not directly connected with the industry.

● Mass pickets in the coalfield are taking part in a criminal conspiracy, Mr Leslie Curtis, chairman of the Police Federation, said at a federation meeting in Sheffield last night.

He attacked South Yorkshire and other Labour-controlled police authorities for putting party politics loyalties above the statutory duty to the people they serve.

"What is being seen in Yorkshire and elsewhere has nothing to do with peaceful picketing, he said. "It is an organized and sustained challenge, not to the rule of civil law but the rule of criminal law."

"The police service is not going to forget in a hurry the way in which South Yorkshire and other police authorities have put their party political loyalties above their statutory duty to the people they serve."



Paper sets day for new technology

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

One of the biggest regional newspapers in Britain has effectively given its staff an 18-month deadline for the complete introduction of new technology.

The *Wolverhampton Express and Star*, which sells around 50,000 copies daily in the West Midlands, has said the equipment will be ready by mid-1986, and it expects unions to fall into line.

The management is due to meet national officials of the National Graphical Association (NGA), Sogat '82, and the National Union of Journalists next week to spell out its programme.

● Management at the *Portsmouth News* will today go ahead with a crucial second stage in its new technology programme with or without the approval of the National Union of Journalists.

National leaders of the union were last night trying to persuade members to boycott the step after management walked out of talks on Tuesday night.

● Arguments for the NUJ and the NGA to unite on the introduction of new technology came from both sides of the industry yesterday at a meeting of the Printing Industry Research Association.

Mr Mike Smith, Fleet Street organizer for the NUJ, and Mr David Gordon, managing director of the *Economist* used different arguments, but agreed that the traditional boundary between printers and journalists had to disappear if the newspaper industry was to survive.

Hurd rejects Dublin authority

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The British Government has firmly ruled out the Irish Republic exercising any executive authority in the affairs of Northern Ireland but it is prepared for Irish ministers to have a consultative role offering advice and warnings.

In his first press conference since his appointment as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Douglas Hurd yesterday appeared to confirm the view that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is offering the republic nothing more than a consultative role. He repeatedly ruled out joint authority as an approach to difficulties in Northern Ireland.

Mr Hurd also contested the view from Dublin about the alienation of the minority community, suggesting it was being overstated. He feared that in some way the analysis of alienation was self-fulfilling and that in his experience many members of the minority community cooperated with the institutions of the state and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

But he admitted there was a difficulty which was acute in certain areas. He said the police were trying to recruit widely, with Roman Catholics being 12 per cent of recruits this year, compared with 8 per cent last year.

During the Anglo-Irish summit in London the idea of a joint security council was discussed. The proposal is to be researched in detail by civil servants before the two prime ministers meet early next year. Mr Hurd said such a body could provide ways in which views about policing and related legal matters could be expressed.

Assembly faces Hume's test

Geoffrey Smith, page 4

When Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, speaks to the Northern Ireland Assembly soon for the first time since his arrival in the province there will be many who are astonished that it still exists.

Few people believed when it first met two years ago that the assembly would survive, given a boycott by the main nationalist party and lukewarm enthusiasm for it within the main Unionist party.

An official, commenting on the initiative by the former Secretary of State, Mr James Prior, which set up the body, had said: "It looks like a short road leading nowhere."

Against the odds it has lasted and looks likely to complete its four-year term, but it may be revamped before then in an effort to achieve the Social Democratic and Labour Party's participation.

It was set up as part of the latest in a long line of British Government inspired initiatives aimed at restoring a measure of devolution and power to the province's bitterly divided politicians.

Under Mr Prior's proposal the aim was that devolution would be reached by stages, which involved a weighted voting system.

The 78-member assembly would be able to opt for partial devolution but no proposals for power to be restored to Stormont could occur without the support of 70 per cent of its membership and the Government had to be satisfied there was "cross community support."

Without such agreement, the assembly has only a scrutinizing role of government departments and measures and today that remains its function and will do so as long as Mr John Hume's SDLP remains outside Stormont.

Mr Prior's ideas were probably too late, particularly for a province in the wake of the hunger strike and with the SDLP turning against a solely internal solution and being offered no guarantee of a place in government, something they achieved in 1974.

The party refused to take its seats, calling the scheme unworkable. The election for the assembly gave Provisional Sinn Féin, political wing of the Provisional IRA, an opportunity to test its electoral support. It won five seats but abstained from taking them. The organization does not recognize the state or its institutions.

The SDLP won 14 seats but has not taken them, either.

Meetings of the assembly, reduced from three to two days a week because of a lack of matters to discuss, are presently attended by the Democratic Unionist Party with 20 members. Official Unionists, with 26, Alliance, with 10 and three Independents.



Mr Tom King meeting young people in London yesterday from country areas (Photograph: Dod Miller).

£7.20 a week, much of her unemployment money, to seek work at the Jobcentre in Blackpool 10 miles away, three times a week. To work in Blackpool and keep her £24-a-week flat in Presall she would need to earn £55 a week.

Rebecca Pow, aged 24, from Inglesbatch, a hamlet near Bath, said she had wanted to remain there but there was nothing to rent and locals could not compete with the prices outsiders paid for cottages.

Candidate burdened by hints of Cabinet post

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Michael Portillo, who has landed the plum Conservative candidacy of Southgate, will start his by-election campaign on Monday with one misfortune. The label "Future Cabinet Minister" has already been stuck on him by many of his political friends. "He looks as if he already has a red box in his hand," one admirer said yesterday.

The last Conservative by-election candidate described in such terms was Mr Peter Goldman, also a graduate of the

Conservative Research Department, who suffered a famous defeat at the hands of the Liberals in Orpington in 1962.

A more recent omen was the loss of another "safe" Conservative seat entrusted to yet another bright young Tory backroom boy, at the Portsmouth South by-election in June.

In these uncertain times the triumph of selection for a safe seat, against hundreds of contenders, can be the prelude to disaster. But Michael Portillo's friends have extraordinary confidence in him. They describe him as very intelligent, alert and articulate; not one to drop a fast slip catch at a by-election press conference.

Mr Portillo, who is 31, went from the County School for Boys, Harrow, to Peterhouse, Cambridge, to read history, and got a first. About a year after leaving he was recruited to the Research Department by Christopher Patten, its director, who was looking for exceptional talent for what looked a long haul in opposition after the two election defeats of 1974. Mr Portillo seems to have stood out in a bright bunch which included Robin Harris and Nicholas True, now political advisers to Mr Leon Brittan and Mr Norman Fowler.

In the 1979 election he

Forecast of unrest over new cuts at Jobcentres

A modified plan for a cut in the Jobcentre network would lead to widespread discontent among management and staff at the Manpower Services Commission and will almost certainly cause spontaneous walkouts, union leaders said yesterday.

The Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) will today lobby a meeting of the commission and present a petition attacking the fresh proposals and calling for their complete withdrawal.

The union estimates that the new plan will mean a total job loss of 980 and not the 530 calculated by the MSC. The commission said last night however that those extra redundancies had already been announced and were not concerned with the Jobcentre plan.

The MSC's original proposals, which called for as many as 1,250 job losses, encountered bitter criticism and was attacked by MPs, local authorities, unions and commission staff in a consultation exercise.

Mr Alistair Graham, general secretary of the CPSA, said yesterday that the new plan was only marginally different from the proposals that had encountered the opposition and constituted a "deliberate deceit".

489 pig herds slaughtered

A total of 489 herds comprising more than 41,000 pigs has so far been slaughtered in the campaign to eradicate Aujeszky's disease, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture told the Commons' agriculture committee yesterday.

He said the progress made confirmed the Government's and the industry's view that slaughter was the correct course, although the cost had been higher than anyone would have liked. But in health terms the scheme had been successful.

Australian to be extradited

The Dublin District court yesterday ordered the extradition to Australia of Robert Trimble, aged 53, after rejecting an application for his release.

The Australian Attorney General's office has issued 18 warrants seeking the extradition of Trimble on charges ranging from murder to importing heroin.

Wetland birds get reprieve

The Government has refused a grant for the drainage of Derwent fens, in North Yorkshire, one of the most important wetland breeding sites in Britain and a designated site of special scientific interest.

The Ouse and Derwent internal drainage board could go ahead with the project without a grant but is sure to be under pressure not to do so.

Unions in talks

Merger talks between the TUC-affiliated Banking Insurance and Finance Union and the Clearing Banks Union are to restart after yesterday's decision by the 156,000 strong Bifu to drop most pre-conditions for negotiations.

Son jailed

Anthony Horswell, who tried to blame his mother for a murder he committed, was jailed for life yesterday.

Horswell, aged 28, of Newton Abbot, Devon, was found guilty by Exeter Crown Court of killing his father.

Inquest opened

An inquest was opened and adjourned at Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday into the death of Lady Gormanston, aged 29, who was found slumped in the back seat of her husband's car on Sunday.

Fluoride writ

The Severn Trent Water Authority is to defend its fluoridation of water supplies. The authority will defend a writ issued by a group of councillors in Newark, Nottinghamshire, accusing it of acting illegally.

Nott to speak

Sir John Nott, who was Secretary of State for Defence during the Falklands conflict, will give evidence to the foreign affairs select committee next month on the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the General Belgrano.

Wife questioned

The wife of one of the two prisoners freed by ambushes from a prison van was questioned by police at Reigate, Surrey last night. Mrs Tracey Smith's husband Terence and John Kendall are still at large.

Laity reject bishops in politics

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The bishops of the Church of England do not appear to enjoy their members' support in their increasing involvement in key political controversies, according to preliminary results of a recent Gallup poll.

Members of the church are proved by the survey to be more conservative than the general public. They are less in favour of political involvement by churchmen than non-churchgoers, the poll reveals, and neither figure is very high.

The survey was conducted at the end of October, and is part of a detailed study of attitudes inside the Church of England, which has been commissioned by the Anglican evangelical body, Church Leaders, at that stage church leaders' political profile was substantially higher than at any point in recent years.

Replying to the question: "Do you think the church should or should not take sides in political issues?", of the representative sample of 983 adults 69 per cent said should not and 25 per cent should. Among Church of England members, 59 per cent of the whole, 73 per cent were against, 22 per cent for.

Mr Leonard Richenberg

Our report (November 20) of the corruption charges at Bow Street against Mr Leonard Richenberg said he was "arrested" after Fraud Squad investigations. Mr Richenberg was in fact simply served with a summons, and never arrested. We apologize for this error in agency copy.

Revival in market for British paintings

By Huon Mallalieu

While the great days of Duveen may not have returned, there is certainly renewed activity in the market for eighteenth and early-nineteenth century British paintings, which had long been held to be extinct. At Sotheby's yesterday a sale of British-associated paintings dating from 1500 to 1850 made £1,252,790 with just under 15 per cent bought in and many lots going far over estimate.

A sugary portrait by Reynolds of Miss Harvey as a small girl sold to a buyer from New York at £82,500 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000), although an unfinished Reynolds study of Kitty Fisher of nursery rhyme fame, which had carried the same estimate, failed to find a buyer. A less obvious Reynolds portrait of the Earl of Tyrconnel, who was chiefly notable for his inability to retain the affections of his wives, was bought for £9,900 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000).

Another eighteenth century portrait painter whose work was in demand was Philip Mercier, a Frenchman who settled in Yorkshire, two of whose decorative studies of children, framed together, sold to the London dealer Fritz-Dennewitz for £71,500 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000), while a single portrait of a boy with a topknot sold for £41,800 (estimate £8,000 to £12,000).

GLC abolition 'costing £225m'

The Greater London Council claimed yesterday that its abolition would cost almost as much as the Government expected the operation to save.

The argument about figures was a prelude to the final stage of the Government's long countdown towards scrapping the GLC and the six English metropolitan county councils.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the GLC, said that the Government intended to wait until late today to publish its Local Government Bill to deny critics an early chance to highlight its shortcomings. "They are still trying desperately to cobble together the figures to justify the policy," he said at County Hall.

The Bill is expected to include a forecast that abolition will save £50m a year in London and a further £50m in the other six areas.

Mr Livingstone said that abolition in London alone would cost a total of £225m at today's prices over five years.

Jenkin forces councils to sell surplus land

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has taken the unprecedented step of forcing local councils to sell their surplus land.

The Government has now directed the councils to sell the sites to the private sector. A total of 47 acres is involved in Oldham, Darlington, Sunderland and Nottingham.

The National Housebuilders Federation apparently objected because the Oldham site had not been put on the market although the council agrees it is a marketable commodity. Mr Jenkin has instructed Oldham council to sell the site well within its five year timescale.

Two quit ethnic study group

Two members of the Swann committee, which has spent five years studying the education of ethnic minority children, have resigned in protest at the way one section of the report has been rewritten by the chairman, Lord Swann.

The resignations of Mrs Ann Dummett and Father Michael Hollings highlight the debate which has dogged the committee from the beginning about why some black children perform badly in school.

Mrs Dummett, the new director of the Runnymede Trust, and Father Hollings say that the rewritten chapter three places a heavy emphasis on family background as an explanation for underachievement. They believe that the attitudes of the school and the teachers are equally, if not more, important.

● Britain is warned today against emulating the American pattern of positive discrimination in attempting to reverse disadvantages suffered by blacks in a pamphlet from the right-wing research body, the Social Affairs Unit (Pat Healy writes).

West Indians and Asians who are not doing well in jobs, education and housing do not owe their difficulties mainly to racism, the pamphlet says. *Reversing Racism: Lessons from America*, by Kenneth Holland and Geoffrey Parkins (Social Affairs Unit, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1P 3LB, £2).

Mr Tom King meeting young people in London yesterday from country areas

(Photograph: Dod Miller).

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, had a rendezvous by a tractor yesterday with about 150 country teenagers who wanted to tell MPs what it is like to be aged 17 and unable to get jobs or go to the disco because there are no buses.

They came from Somerset, Lincolnshire and other parts of rural Britain to protest that young country people are being penalized or driven into towns for lack of jobs, reasonably priced housing and inadequate public transport.

"If you were brought up in a village why should you not have a right to stay in the village?" Gordon Macpherson, aged 17, a sixth-form student from Banapton, near Witney in Oxfordshire, asked.

The group also met their MPs and questioned party spokesmen in the Commons in a day of action organized by the Youth Affairs Lobby, an umbrella organization for youth groups.

Mr King told the group of the Government's privatization plans for rural bus services and how keen he was to see redundant farm buildings and forges turned into workshops and factories to provide jobs.

"Privatization will mean even fewer bus routes and will increase the problems we are talking about," Mr Ryan said.

Louise Cuerden, aged 17, from Presall, said she spent

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Way opened for Sunday trading and more late night shopping

By Robin Young

All restrictions on shop hours should be abolished, opening the way to more late-night shopping and legalised Sunday trading, a government committee of inquiry recommended yesterday. None the less there will be no legislation in this session of Parliament.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, in a Commons written answer yesterday, said that the Government would wish to consider reactions to the report carefully before reaching any conclusion.

While the Cabinet is thought to favour some relaxation of trading laws, the recommendations of the committee, chaired by Mr Robin Auld, QC, are understood to have surprised some ministers. While it is generally accepted that the laws must be changed, there is vociferous opposition within and outside Parliament to the idea of round-the-clock and seven-day trading.

The committee accepts that deregulation could lead to some shops being driven out of business, to the loss of about 20,000 jobs, and to additional disturbance on Sundays to people living near shops. But it says that the impact of deregulation would not be so

great as to be easily distinguishable from changes which are already taking place.

An analysis of the economic implications of legalised Sunday trading, commissioned for the inquiry from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, suggested that it would lead to a 3 per cent reduction in retail capacity overall but, by making the industry more efficient, might lead to a small reduction in prices.

The committee concluded that the removal of restrictions on trading was "the only way forward", and that its adverse effects would be far outweighed by its benefits. The disregard in which the existing legislation is held, even by those who are supposed to enforce it, is described as "a public and daily reminder that the law is an ass".

The report reluctantly accepts that no practicable protection can be devised for people living in shopping areas but says that most of the trading increase should be away from residential areas.

The committee also ruled out as impracticable any statutory provision protecting shopworkers from having to work against their will late at night or on Sunday, but "strongly urges"

the retention for retail workers of wages councils' machinery to fix and enforce satisfactory wages and premium rates.

Mr John Flood, deputy general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers which represents about an eighth of Britain's shopworkers, said yesterday that the recommendations would put staff back into Victorian terms of service.

Miss Mildred Head, an assessor to the inquiry on behalf of small and medium-size businesses, said that if the recommendations were taken up they could have devastating effects.

Mr Peter Welton, president of the National Federation of Meat Traders, described the trading free-for-all as a "cow-boys charter".

On the other hand, Mrs Rachel Waterhouse, chairman of the Consumers' Association, said the Government should now commit itself to taking action. Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said: "The present legal restrictions make bad law. Sunday trading would allow more families to get about and enjoy themselves."

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Comment, page 17

Tory MPs angered by student grant cut

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Some Conservative MPs are trying to persuade ministers to abandon proposed new measures for student grants.

Backbenchers from all wings of the party believe that proposals to make better-off parents pay more towards living costs, and in some cases to pay towards their education, to be foolish.

The plans mean that a family with a residual income of £20,000 or over will have to pay £725 a year more to keep their son or daughter at college. There are 53,000 families in this bracket.

A university vice-chancellor collapsed and died yesterday, the National Union of Students' day of action on grants, while he was addressing angry students who had occupied part of the senate house.

Professor Robert Whelan, aged 61, vice-chancellor of Liverpool University, faced hostile questions from 100 to 200 students who had fought their way past security guards because he would not issue a statement opposing student loans and supporting the maintenance of the student grant, although he backed these views.

Professor Whelan, vice-chancellor since 1977, was taken to the Royal Liverpool Hospital, where he died shortly afterwards.

The Guild of Undergraduates issued a statement afterwards: "We wish to express our deepest sorrow and distress that such a tragedy should have occurred. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. He will be greatly missed by the university." It described the sit-in as peaceful.

From next September parents with a residual income of £20,000 will pay about £2,400 a year for a student outside London and about £2,800 for one in London.

Mr Michael Forsyth, Conservative MP for Stirling and a former chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, said that will hurt the Conservative Party's natural supporters.

"We are hitting at executives and middle-income earners who are paying high rates of tax and finding it quite difficult to make contributions towards their children's higher education."

Mr Forsyth, who is on the Thatcherite wing of the party, believes the right course would be to introduce student loans so that students would be treated as adults. The new measures make them even more dependent on their parents.

A partial loans scheme, drawn up by the Department of Education and Science before the last election, foundered as a result of opposition from non-education Cabinet ministers.

The National Union of Students said that 130 colleges, including most universities and polytechnics and colleges of higher education, took action yesterday with major rallies in Sheffield, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Oxford.

The trial of Dominic McGlinchey, who is accused of murdering Mrs Hester McMillan, aged 63, killed in a provisional IRA ambush seven years ago, has been provisionally set for December 10 at Belfast Crown Court.

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Navy style: One hundred years of sailor suits are celebrated as Naval Airman David Wiggins hoists aloft Katie Corcoran and William Brayne to mark the launch yesterday of *Royal Baby Nursery & Fashion Handbook* by Sue James. Centre left is Prince Albert, later Edward VII; lower left, George V; and at right three of his children, Princes Albert and Edward and Princess Mary.

Child sex abuse tops 1,500, says NSPCC

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

At least 1,500 children are sexually abused each year and more open discussion and flexible approaches are needed in dealing with a subject that is taboo, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children said yesterday.

The old approach of simply imprisoning the adult responsible, usually the father, can lead to break up of the family and the child being placed in care.

The child can be made to feel the guilty party for bringing attention to it and breaking the family up, Dr Alan Gilmour, the society's director, said. "As a result the victims too often feel that they are the ones being punished."

The society, which dealt with more than a hundred cases of child sex abuse last year, has been experimenting, in cooperation with the police and others, with intensive help that can leave fathers staying with, or returning to the family, usually under a court or probation order. That approach, the NSPCC says, can be in the best interests of the child. Eighty per cent of child abuse cases involve girls, the society said.

In some cases, where the adult was unrepentant or particularly sadistic, there was no alternative to prison, Mr David Jones, principal research officer for the society, said.

He said: "For some children it is a massive relief. They think thank goodness this has stopped. But for others there will be a sense of guilt that they have broken up the family."

Mr Barry Graham, chairman of the society's working party on sexual abuse, quoted a case where a father had an incestuous relationship with the eldest two of his three daughters aged 12 to 16. The girl aged 14 eventually told her teacher, the father was imprisoned, but no other help was given to the family.

The child blamed herself, and was blamed by her sisters, for breaking up the family. She made a number of suicide attempts and eventually needed psychiatric treatment.

By contrast a stepfather, who sexually abused his daughter aged six was imprisoned; the mother attempted suicide and the daughter blamed herself. The NSPCC was called in; the courts agreed a probation order to allow him to live away from home, he now visits the children and may move back in.

"What we need is a range of options that can be tailored to the particular family," Mr Graham said.

Death of Saudi girl unsolved

The cause of death of a Saudi Arabian heiress, whose mutilated torso was found in a rubbish bag in a London street more than two months ago, remained unknown yesterday.

Miss Suhay Younis Hawa, aged 15, vanished on August 25 while on holiday with her uncle, Mr Muhammad Hawa, aged 42, and his wife, Jamana, in a flat in New Cavendish Street, Marylebone, west London.

The lower half of the girl's dismembered body was found by a BBC employee under a Rolls-Royce in Marylebone, on September 7, the inquest at Westminster was told.

Dr Fayul Knappman, the Westminster coroner, recorded an open verdict and said: "We haven't heard and neither have the Hawa family heard from Muhammad or Jamana."

"The police would be, of course, very keen to speak to Mr Muhammad Hawa and his wife. It seems to me they must know a great deal about the events which have occurred."

Although it was most likely Miss Hawa was murdered, he said, the cause of death was not known. "We do not know a great many things concerning her disappearance."

A family friend, Mr Shihadeh Faris, a commercial manager who works in Saudi Arabia and in Britain, said the family still believed that the girl was alive.

Fraud trials by jury defended

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Customs and excise officials yesterday started criminal proceedings against directors of Gay's the World, the London homosexual bookshop, for alleged conspiracy to import indecent material.

Charges were laid against the bookshop's eight directors and one manager in connection with 144 titles, some 2,000 books, seized by customs men earlier this year.

The trial will be seen as one of the most important test cases since that in 1960 over *Lady Chatterley's Lover* both about the meaning of "indecent" and concerning powers of customs and excise officials in enforcing laws against prohibited goods.

The prosecutions are being brought under customs and excise laws enshrined in the Customs Consolidation Act 1876 and the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. The eight directors involved who will contest the charges, face an unlimited fine or imprisonment for two years, or both.

The Acts give customs officials power to act against the importation of prohibited goods, defined merely as "indecent or obscene". Unlike the Obscene Publications Act, under customs laws there is no defence of artistic merit.

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Directors charged after books seized

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

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Women get 'poor deal' from hotels

By a Staff Reporter

The AA celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of its hotel inspection service with persuasive evidence that standards of hotel keeping in Britain have improved.

The 1985 AA guide to hotels and restaurants, published today recalls that Mr Stenson Cooke, the AA secretary of the day, had to tell the first inspectors how to recognise sheets that had been used before. He also told them to keep a look out for messy soap, smudged tablecloths, dirty napkins, plates spotted with mustard, and knives and forks with cleaning powder left on.

Of the hotels that survived that search for slovenliness and were listed in the AA handbook of 1909, 158 are in the 1985 guide. A few have been in the AA's good books continuously.

Mr Cooke introduced the star grading, since copied around the world, in 1911, adapting it from that used for grading brandy. One hotel, the Royal Bath at Bournemouth, retains its five star classification from the original list.

The University Arms at Cambridge, though completely changed in appearance and much extended, has been continuously approved since 1909 and in the same family ownership.

The AA thinks women travelling alone are poorly provided for. Six of its hotel inspectors are women, and they report wardrobe that will not accommodate long dresses, hangers that snag blouses, few full-length mirrors, and often no full-length peepholes in the bedroom doors.

The AA estimates that one tenth of business hotel users are women. Many, it says, even have difficulty getting a key, being ignored by reception staff in the hope that they will go away.

Hotels and Restaurants in Britain 1985 (AA, £6.95).

Cut in BBC world services expected

By Kenneth Gosling

Cuts in the expansion programme of the BBC's external services are expected to be announced today.

If, as predicted, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office plans call for equal misery for all, the first victims could be the Caribbean and Sinhala services, reduced in 1975, but planned to be restored as part of a modest expansion programme.

The budget for Bush House is £80m, but even if the projected 1985-86 expenditure is not cut that would require savings. One reason is that the fall of sterling against the dollar pushes up the price of oil used to power transmitters.

In the last round of cuts, in 1981-82, £1.5m was saved with the loss of the Spanish, Italian and Maltese services and reductions in others. Only a backbench Tory revolt prevented even more savage economies.

If new cuts are demanded, the BBC says Britain will fall even further behind Japan, Russia, France and the United States which are all increasing their overseas broadcasting services. Yet Britain has the biggest overseas audience - 100 million listeners.

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EXTERNAL BROADCASTING

	Hours per week	No. of languages
USSR	2174	34
USA	2074	48
Voice of America	585	42
Radio Free Europe	585	42
Radio Liberty	465	45
Chinese People's Republic	1418	45
Soviet Federal Republic	788	38
German Democratic Republic	225	12
Deutsche Welle	721	37
SSC	548	21
Egypt		

Radio Liberty broadcasts only to USSR; Radio Free Europe only to USSR and central Europe and Scandinavia; Voice of America and Deutsche Welle to west and west Europe; the USSR broadcasts in 14 languages spoken on the Indian sub-continent. Egypt broadcasts in 13 of the languages used by one or more of the above are not used by the BBC.

Source: International Broadcasting Audience Research, November 1984.

Post Office queues and closures criticized by MPs

COMMONS

Many representations, all unfavourable, had been received by the Government about the Post Office's proposals on post office closures. Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister for Information Technology, told the Commons at question time.

We have explained to those who have written (he said) that proposals to close particular offices are an operational matter for the Post Office and the Government has no power to intervene.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) said 775 pensioners in his constituency would lose the main sub post office. They did not own a car or have a bank account. Commercial criteria were not enough to deal with such problems. Would Mr Pattie assure him that there would be a way of execution until there was proper consultation between the Post Office and those it was there to serve?

Mr Pattie repeated that particular closures were a matter for the Post Office and the criteria were of long standing and concerned the distance between post offices and urban areas.

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C) said that because the Post Office was a nationalized monopoly it was far from operating for the customers' convenience. Why not introduce some competition? Why not have postage stamps sold more widely than at post offices? This would help overcome difficulties caused by post office closures.

Mr Hamilton replied that he would note the suggestion. But Post Office closures were under great pressure because of the DHSS office strike so he would not wish to entertain such a suggestion now.

Mr Alan Williams, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said Mr Pattie had himself mentioned public concern. Would he consult immediately with the Post Office chairman and express concern or were Mr Pattie and the Government insensitive to the needs of the least mobile groups?

Mr Pattie said this was not so. He had frequently talked with the chairman on various matters, including this one.

The closure programme had been halted because of the difficulties caused by the DHSS strike in Newcastle.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) said it is a disgrace that some Crown Post Offices have queues into the street, that it takes almost 40 minutes to buy stamps, and that at the same time, there are proposals to close sub-post offices.

The elderly and handicapped rely on sub-post offices and it should be a matter of social policy that they are retained so that those people do not have to join the ever-burgeoning queues outside crown offices.

Mr Pattie: The queues in the post offices and sub-post offices affect every MP. I have discussed the matter with Sir Ronald Dearing, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, which is what led him to decide that there should be a moratorium on further closures while the DHSS strike is in progress.

Dr Alan Glyn (Windsor and Maidenhead, C). The arbitrary way in which post offices and sub-post offices have been closed is having a detrimental effect on the elderly. Mr Pattie: Representations made have been drawn to the attention of the chairman of the Post Office.

Injecting commercial touch into ECGD

EXPORT CREDITS

Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, announced in the Commons that the Government had decided to hold a further quick review, which would take four months, into the Export Credits Guarantee Department to try to make it more businesslike and commercial.

Replying to Mr Michael Fallon (Darlington, C) he said Sir Peter Matthews and his colleagues had produced an excellent report on the department for which the Government was grateful.

I fully share their view (he said) that changes are needed to make ECGD more businesslike and commercial. But I have decided that such changes do not require the department to be turned into a public corporation, as they recommended.

I have therefore put in hand a further quick review to investigate the scope for change within the present departmental framework, to give effect to the Matthews Committee's underlying objectives.

I have also asked ECGD to discuss with the private sector the scope for increasing private sector involvement in support of UK exports without detriment to ECGD's own risk portfolio.

Mr Channon: I am sure that the Treasury and the Bank of England to examine with other interested parties the idea of a private sector export credit agency.

Mr Fallon: Will these changes make the ECGD's staff and management more businesslike? When does he expect this review to be completed and when will the changes be implemented?

Mr Channon: The review team will be made up of management consultants Coopers and Lybrand, together with representatives from the Treasury, the Bank of England and Personnel Office and ECGD itself. I hope it will be very quick - about four months.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee East, SDP). I would welcome such changes. I am sure that the review will be a success. I am sure that the review will be a success. I am sure that the review will be a success.

Minister outlines options for limiting flights at Heathrow

AVIATION

The Government would be wrong to go back on the pledge it gave in 1979 to limit air transport movements at Heathrow to 275,000 a year, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, told the Commons when he moved the second reading of the Civil Aviation Bill.

The main purpose of the Bill is to give the Secretary of State power to limit air transport movements around Heathrow airport.

Mr Ridley said those who lived around Heathrow would expect the Government to honour its pledge. It was they who had suffered the noise and the disturbance and the Government was right to limit it for their sake.

Whatever long-term decisions are taken about airport capacity in the South East (he said) it will be necessary to have the powers to limit take off and landing at Heathrow in the near future.

The Bill would enable the Secretary of State to limit the number of aircraft movements at Heathrow to 275,000 a year. This would be less than 50 million movements a year.

Heathrow power to direct the CAA in cases where he believed that aircraft policy considerations should be given greater weight in a licensing decision. At present he could not do so.

There was no deep-seated pilot to box themselves into a position where they had to develop Heathrow. The Government had made it clear since 1979 that this limit would be imposed on environmental grounds, and had repeatedly told the House it intended to implement the limit.

Even breaking the pledge would not make the Stannsted application and inquiry go away.

The commitment to 275,000 air transport movements did not mean the Stannsted limit in any way. He could quarrel with the pledge and recommend a higher or lower limit. The Government would have to decide the limit.

Heathrow was running out of runway capacity. Even if there were no environmental limit there was a physical limit on its capacity.

Before long Gatwick would also run into capacity problems, so there must be powers to limit movements at airports in general and at Heathrow in particular. Powers to enforce these limits were needed urgently.

The Government had accepted legal advice that it would be necessary to publish the report in relation to the BA prospectus but it was an exceptional case and would not create a precedent.

The fact that noise levels had fallen in line with expectations, as airlines had re-equipped with quieter engines in general and at Heathrow in particular, was not an argument for scrapping or reviewing the limit now.

The Government had issued a consultation document in July about how the limit should be implemented, and had indicated then that it favoured the maximum use of pricing mechanisms to limit demand, although some regulatory action might be needed.

One option might be to raise landing fees on the assumption that the airlines prepared to pay the most for slots would be those that would make the most efficient use of them. But the Government believed that the landing charges would have to be more than doubled to produce a significant reduction in demand, since it formed a relatively small proportion of an airline's operating costs. This would be very hard on small airlines and commuter airlines, who had a part to play.

Other possibilities included: to auction take off and landing slots; to allocate slots to existing users of them and then allow airlines to trade slots among themselves; to exclude or restrict services, such as excluding small aircraft below a certain seating capacity or excluding services to particular destinations; to restrict the number of daily flights on the most dense routes.

He had received a large number of responses from airlines, airport authorities, amenity groups and other interested organizations and was urgently considering all the views that had been expressed. He would be reaching no decisions yet on which measures might be employed to implement the limit.

The powers in the Bill enabled him to adopt any of the above measures. The particular measures which would need to be taken would depend on the size of the excess demand. The Government clearly would not wish to take measures that would restrict demand unless it was necessary. At present it seemed likely that, with the discontinuation of the Heathrow-Gatwick helicopter link, air transport movements would only be slightly above the limit by the time it was introduced next year.

The Bill provided for the British Airports Authority to prepare a scheme for the implementation of the limit. In directing the BAA to prepare a scheme (he said) I will tell them the features that I want them to incorporate if the scheme is to be given greater weight in a licensing decision. I will have the power of veto. I shall want to lay down firm guidelines quite soon.

Government's statement on Prestwick and the inspector's report on Stannsted and the privatization of British Airways had not been decided.

There was no sense in the policy Mr Ridley had put forward. It is not a competitive policy, not particularly efficient, and it was not serving environmental needs.

The sale of slots would have a direct effect on every airline which had to participate. The large airlines could, in effect, buy out the competition, so there would be rationing by the purse. Small airlines would be squeezed out.

The idea that this is free competition (he said) is not only bizarre but unworkable.

The Bill would be rushed through the House before major decisions had been taken elsewhere and the minister was trying to block off basic decisions concerning not only the south east airports but those throughout Great Britain.

The minister had not made clear today where the interests of the public lay. It was extraordinary that the House should be asked to accept this unsatisfactory, extraordinary, opaque piece of legislation. The Opposition would vote against it.

Sir Humphrey Adkins (Spelthorne, C) said the northern boundary of his constituency ran straight through Heathrow Airport. Successive governments had given grants for double glazing but this was of no use in the summer when people might want windows open or were sitting or working in the garden.

Some people had to suffer the noise of a plane overhead every two minutes. The most effective relief was to reduce the movements. There was a limit to what people could be expected to suffer for the convenience of others. The Bill would stop the problem getting worse.

Mr Lewis Carter Jones (Eccles, Lab) said the Bill should be called The Promotion of Air Transport Bill, instead of the Civil Aviation Bill, because it was about the promotion of air transport.

The minister wanted to make a decision in advance of reviews on the fifth terminal and the inspector's report on Stannsted.

Why not consider the potential of the regions? (he asked). The people in them are getting sick and tired of the Government sucking wealth into the south-east. We would like some of the money in the north-west, the north-east and Scotland.

Geoffrey Smith

What chance is there that the dialogue begun this week by Mrs Thatcher and Dr Garret FitzGerald will come to any- thing? Not much, if one is to judge by the initial reactions. There has been a hostile response from politicians and press in the republic, and Dr FitzGerald was savaged in the Dail on Tuesday. The Ulster Unionists are clearly pleased, which is a sure sign that they do not believe anything is going to happen; and in Westminster there is no sense of excitement.

Yet there is one new factor which distinguishes the present exchanges from previous sterile initiatives. That is the readiness of the Irish government to consider amending sections two and three of the constitution of the republic to remove the barrier to sovereignty over the whole of Ireland.

That is not a decision that the Irish government could take by itself. There would have to be a referendum. So, if such a move were to stand any chance of success, it would have to be part of a broader package that would be designed to satisfy the Irish electorate that the sacrifice was worthwhile.

At the same time it would not have to be a package that sent the Protestants in the north up in smoke. To placate the minority in the province at the cost of outraging the majority would not be a smart exchange.

All parts of BL to be privatized

INDUSTRY

The Government objective is to return all parts of British Leyland to the private sector, Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said during Commons questions.

Plans were being prepared for the privatization of Unipart and the BL. He was also looking at firm plans for the privatization of other parts of BL, he added.

The 1985 BL corporate plan, which he expected to receive shortly, would deal with further privatization.

He was replying to Mr Michael Gwynn (North West Surrey, C) who asked for more speedy action following the successful flotation of Jaguar.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) asked for more consideration to be given to the price of shares if the Government was forced down this highly irresponsible route.

Mr Lamont: It is easy to make comments on the share price of Jaguar after the event. At the time of the flotation many people were wondering, precisely because the Stock Market had gone through a shaky period, whether that price was pitched right. I believe it was pitched right and it was a successful flotation.

Labour MPs get glum and glummer as things get better and better.

Mr Alan Howarth (Stratford-on-Avon, C) will indicate the progress being made towards the privatization of the truck and bus division. As selling buyers, even for industrial and business, are available in the private sector, it is not enough to wait until such time as BL comes up with its own proposals for privatization.

Mr Lamont: The Secretary of State made a statement some months ago on the BL board's plans for Leyland Vehicles and saying we endorse their strategy. We are not inclined to sell off individual bits within the truck business because we have committed ourselves to proceed with that plan.

Mr Ian Wright (Stockton South, SDP). The most important objective is that BL should be returned to the most substantial volume producer of cars in this country. To achieve that has it not got to beat the competition from overseas and, whether in the private or public sector, is that strategy not the most important factor? What is the Government doing to help BL achieve it?

Mr Lamont: We believe a company has got a better chance of being competitive and of creating jobs if it is in the private sector. We intend to return all the parts of BL to the private sector.

More funds sought for research

HOUSE OF LORDS

The danger to the future of medical research in this country was real and so were the glittering opportunities, Lord Jellicoe (C) said during a debate in the House of Lords on the work of the research councils and the resources available to them.

I would express the very strong hope (he went on) that the Government will continue to ponder very hard about the both on the danger and on the opportunities.

Lord Sheffield (Ind), opening the debate, said at a time when Britain's main industrial competitors were increasing expenditure on basic research, this country was in the process of cutting back.

In a visit to Washington members of the Select Committee on Science and Technology were made aware of the extent to which President Reagan was investing his budget on basic research and in Japan members were told not enough resources were devoted to it.

Although comparisons with other countries seemed to show the United Kingdom came out quite well, at least 50 per cent of the total was attributable to Ministry of Defence spending on research and development, largely on new weapons.

The policy of the Government (he said) on science and technology is running fundamentally counter to its main and wholly admirable objective of restoring and improving our industrial performance and our competitiveness.

Lord Walton (SDP) said Britain must concentrate on developing all its industries based on high technology and on building up an export trade and productive capacity that would ensure that it at least retained its present position in the economic world. This country had magnificent places of learning, but it was not building on this foundation as it should.

Industry was notoriously reluctant to spend on research and development compared with the United States, Japan and West Germany.

Earl Jellicoe, who is chairman of the Medical Research Council, said the prospects for medical research in this country should be very bright. There were possibilities almost within their grasp which could bring great benefit to the health and therefore the economy of the nation. Their ability to give effect to these opportunities depended on cash, and spare cash was just what they lacked.

Despite good housekeeping the MRC's room for manoeuvre was desperately limited these days. Not only was its ability to fund new work in question, but even more its capacity adequately to meet existing commitments was very much in doubt.

What worried him and should worry everybody with the future of medical research at heart was that while the present prospect was stark and difficult the future could well become grimly still. Could they hope that the gravity of the situation would be matched by the Government's response?

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Liberal motion on overseas aid. Lords (3): Food and Environment Protection Bill, second reading.

Report in December on textile industry

FUTURE OF MFA

It was hoped that a special report on the textile industry would be published early next month, Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, said in Commons questions.

He said the report would be published and he indicated he would be interested to have the views of the industry and the House upon it.

Asked to indicate the timetable for preparing the forthcoming negotiations on a new multi-fibre arrangement Mr Channon said the arrangement extended until July 31 1986 and it was by that date that agreement on a successor regime must be reached.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West Lab) said there was concern amongst the British textile em-

ployers and workers that the Government was not representing them as properly as the governments of their competitors.

Will Mr Channon make it quite clear (he added) that the British Government fully appreciates the crucial importance of any new MFA to enable British textile manufacturers to overcome any unfair competition?

Mr Channon: I accept this importance. The future of the MFA is something we will have to see about. It is far too soon to come to any conclusion.

Mr Nicholas Winterless (Macclesfield, SDP) said it was not too soon to come to an agreement on the new MFA if the expansion of the clothing and textile industry was to continue.

Mr Channon suggested it was better to see the special report before reaching any conclusions.

Mr James Lamont (Oldham Central, Lab) said China was building up her textile industry with the object of exporting as much as the entire output of Europe.

Mr Channon: Mr Lamont has raised a very important point. There are difficult and important issues and we will have to consider them with care.

Sir John Farr (Harborough, C) said that despite a succession of agreements tens of thousands of jobs had been lost, particularly in the garment and footwear industries. They would never be restored.

Mr Channon: Before deciding on the exact terms of a new multi-fibre agreement, if it is what it is to be, we

should study the evidence and await the report of Professor Silverstone.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said Mr Channon had just implied that there might not be an MFA but some other arrangement. That would cause worry throughout the textile and clothing industries.

The minister should be able to tell MPs that the Government's objective would be to get a new MFA which would cater for the problems of British industries, without waiting for the report.

Mr Channon said he and colleagues were in continual touch with the textile and clothing industry, and there was no worry there unless Mr Smith was around stirring it up.

There was no decision yet on what direction might be appropriate for the British industry beyond 1986.

Steel plans have to await end of strike

INVESTMENT

The British Steel Corporation could not draw up a sensible investment plan until it knew the result of the miners' strike, Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said during Commons questions.

Mr Lamont said he would take into account the effect of the BSC's target of achieving viability by December 1985 when considering the future capital investment programme and external financing limits of the corporation.

Mr Richard Hickmet (Glasford and Southnorpe, C) said: The half year figures show that, despite the attempts of the National Union of Mineworkers to sabotage the British Steel Corporation, there has been a significant improvement in competitive and productive performance.

When he fixes the external financing limits, will he bear in mind that the cost of the miners' strike should not be paid for by cuts in the investment programme of the corporation?

If we are to maintain and sustain the viability of the industry it is essential, at tomorrow's meeting of the European Council of Ministers, that he should press for an increase in the BSC quota share both in real and percentage terms.

Mr Lamont: I shall be pressing on the Steel Council those problems about steel quotas. I have had a

meeting with the BSC and confirmed the line we shall be taking.

The external finance limit will be increased after the strike is over. Once the costs of the strike are known, we shall consider the position. The danger of investment comes not from the Government, but from those who supported the miners' strike.

It is remarkable that BSC is making as much, in some cases, more steel than it was before the miners' strike. That is a tribute to the courage and determination of those in the corporation.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk, East, Lab) will the minister guarantee that when the capital investment programme is decided, Ravenscraig will receive its fair share? When is he likely to make a decision on the much-needed investment in the Ravenscraig coke ovens?

Mr Lamont: That awaits the end of the strike. The BSC cannot draw up a sensible plan until it knows the decision on the miners' strike.

I cannot give guarantees on anything, but the position of Ravenscraig is exactly as it has always been stated to be the House.

Mr John Smith (Chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry): Worry is arising out of the fact that documents have been published showing that BSC could stand to find the finance to replace the coke ovens at Ravenscraig without which there can be no viable future for that plant.

Money wasted on lecturers not working full hours

Councils are wasting money because some college lecturers do not spend enough time teaching, the Audit Commission said yesterday. It suggested that as many as 75,000 extra students might be fitted into the higher education system if the full hours were worked.

Local deals with lecturers often allowed them to teach for less time than the amount allowed in national bargaining and demanded by industry, the commission said in its first annual report.

Lecturers sometimes took tea breaks when they were supposed to be seeing students and some were paid overtime before finishing their agreed number of hours with students.

The commission, a quango set up last year to monitor efficiency in local government, has more than 500 staff and its first year of operation cost £15m. It runs almost 2,000 projects aimed at making savings.

"If the whole of the public service had been as energetic in this as local government has been, then the Government's recent round of 'star chamber' talks about cuts in public spending would have been much easier," Mr John Bannham, the commission's controller of audit, said.

"We have local authorities being very responsive about getting to grips with some very difficult questions," Mr Bannham said.

The commission said that it was worried about the risk of successful false claims for housing benefits. It also found that bonus payments played too great a part in determining standards of service in several council jobs, including refuse collection.

Audit Commission Report 1984: (Stationery Office, £2.20).



Mr Adam Watson of Sotheby's with the Stradivari violin, "La Cathedrale", which is expected to fetch more than £300,000 today. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Professor scoffs at household robot

As if pitching balls at a coconut shy, Professor John Searle used the latest of his Reith Lectures, on BBC Radio 4 yesterday, to shift his aim to a third area of "fashionable" scientific activity.

Loosening up for the throw, he said: "We are frequently assured that we are on the verge of having household robots that will do all the housework, babysit our children, amuse us with lively conversation, and take care of us in our old age. That is of course, so much nonsense."

The object of the attack by Professor Searle, Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley, was the new discipline of cognitive science, which is at the centre of ideas for making possible computers with the same mental processes as the brain.

He summarised research in this way: "The task of cognitive science is to characterize the brain not at the level of nerve cells, nor at the level of conscious mental states, but rather at the level of its functioning as an information-processing system."

However, this idea produces a gap which the scientists trying to devise intelligent computers find difficult to explain. As an example, he said, people feel perfectly confident in saying, "Basil voted for the Tories because he liked Mrs Thatcher's handling of the Falklands affair." But we had no idea how to go about saying things like: "Basil voted for the Tories because of a condition of the hypothalamus part of his brain."

Professor Searle said there were common sense explanations of behaviour in mental terms, in terms of desires, wishes, fears and hopes. So there must also be a physiological explanation of behaviour in terms of brain processes.

The first of these types of explanations worked well in practice, but was not scientific. The second was scientific, but we had no idea how to make it work in practice.

That left a gap between brain and mind which some of the greatest intellectual efforts of the twentieth century had tried to fill, to reach a science of human behaviour which was not just common sense "grandmother psychology," but nor was neurophysiology.

Direct rule could continue

The Catholics could be further reassured by a Bill of Rights in Northern Ireland, an idea which has already been espoused by the Unionists, and there could be no reasonable objection to an Irish consulate in Belfast.

Any package would have to be conditional upon the outcome of a referendum in the Irish constitution, and possibly even upon a treaty between the countries specifically recognizing British sovereignty throughout the United Kingdom. But it should not depend upon agreement on a devolved assembly in Northern Ireland.

British ministers have been speaking this week as if they still have this very much in mind. But whether there is a devolved assembly is irrelevant to such a package. It would be consistent with any one of a number of different forms of government for the province.

There could be an assembly in which the Unionists and the Social Democratic and Labour Party would both participate. There could be a continuation of direct rule, with or without the present assembly as a harmless white elephant. Or Northern Ireland could be integrated in the United Kingdom in the same way as Scotland, with a Secretary of State and a Northern Irish Office, and with Northern Irish legislation handled in the normal way at Westminster.

Warsaw sees pressure from US behind Genscher cancellation

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The unprecedented last-minute cancellation by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, of his three-day visit to Poland was officially regretted in Warsaw yesterday and described as a setback for reconciliation and normalisation.

Bonn said it hoped the visit could take place as soon as possible, when conditions were right. "The minister will continue to do all he can to help German-Polish ties develop positively," the spokesman said.

The visit, which Herr Genscher hoped would lead to a restoration of normal relations with Poland, created controversy both here and in Warsaw. Warsaw is known to have resented Bonn's attempt to act as a bridge between Poland and the West, and is still suspicious of statements by ministers and officials here that the German question remained open, which they see as evidence that Bonn has not fully accepted Poland's western frontier.

Christian Democrats in the Bonn coalition, however, were urging Herr Genscher to take a firmer stand on human rights in Poland, and were critical of his readiness not to have talks with former newspaper publishers. The cancellation is a bitter personal blow to Herr Genscher, who has worked hard to maintain a dialogue with East Europe in spite of the campaign against West Germany in Moscow and the cancellation of visits here in the summer by East German and Bulgarian leaders.

Herr Genscher was clearly ready not to visit the Popieluszko grave to avoid the controversy which arose after Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had talks with opposition leaders on his recent visit to Warsaw. But Bonn could not allow itself to appear to be obeying public warnings by the Polish Government.

VIENNA: In a 10-hour visit here, overshadowed by the Genscher cancellation, Chancellor Kohl emphasized the absence of problems between Bonn and Vienna (Richard Bassett writes).

He drew attention to the centuries of shared history and culture. West Germany respected the fact that, since the establishment of the second republic in Austria in 1955, Vienna had used its neutrality to benefit both West and East.

Herr Kohl met his Austrian counterpart, Herr Fred Sinowatz. Officials said their talks centred on the Austrian Chancellor's recent visit to East Berlin.

Warsaw's decision to ban the journalist and refuse Herr Genscher's cemetery visit was described by Herr Kohl as incomprehensible.



Hongkong prepares for democracy

From Henry Stanhope Hongkong

Hongkong began its preparations for the takeover by Communist China with the publication yesterday of a White Paper on democracy for the colony.

The much-leaked document, which introduces indirect elections to the Legislative Council, will disappoint those impatient with the pace of change.

The Governor, Sir Edward Youde, however, described it as an important step forward in the constitutional development of what remains for the next 13 years a British colony.

The council, which now consists of 44 members all appointed by the Governor, will have 56 members from next year, 24 elected by a complicated system of electoral colleges. Twenty-two more will be appointed as at present,

while the remaining 10 will be civil servants, so-called "official" members, whose number is being cut from 15.

The White Paper includes several small concessions since last July's Green Paper which did not allow for 24 elected council members until 1988. But no changes are being made in Hongkong's other ruling body, the Executive Council, which advises the governor on policy.

After the inferno: The grotesque remains of the gas distribution depot in Mexico City, centre of a disaster that destroyed the surrounding community.

Yesterday the death toll from Monday's series of explosions was put at 490 and still rising. At least 3,000 were injured and more than 10,000 made homeless.

The Mexican Government has ordered a study of safety procedures in all 75 oil and gas depots in and around the capital, several of which are surrounded by shanty towns.

Death toll from Tamil attack reaches 29

From Donovan Moldrich Colombo

While the death toll in the Tamil rebel attack on the police station at Chavakachcheri in the Tamil-speaking Northern Province on Tuesday had risen to 29 yesterday, the repeated appeals on radio and television by Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of National Security, for calm and restraint appeared to have succeeded. No incidents or reprisals had been reported up to yesterday evening.

In July last year more than 400 of the Tamil minority were killed in the Sinhalese-speaking south after 13 Sinhalese soldiers were killed in the north in an ambush by Tamil rebels.

The minister said that the rebels wanted to create chaos throughout the country in the hope of bringing about foreign intervention.

Mr Athulathmudali told the Cabinet at the weekly meeting yesterday that the Army had gained complete control of the Northern Province. He said that while the majority of those killed had been Sinhalese there were also some Tamils and Muslims.

Police sources said yesterday that 24 of the 28 bodies recovered so far had been identified as police personnel and included the officer in charge of the station, a Sinhalese.

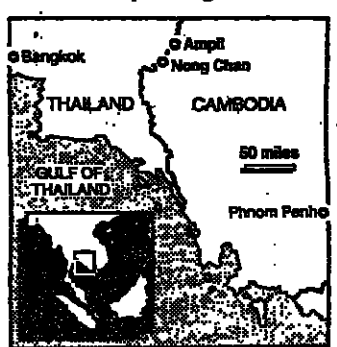
Three rebels were killed when the Army fought its way through roadblocks.

Seesaw battle for Thai border base

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Amid signs that Vietnam is spreading its offensive to other sections of the Thai-Cambodian border, anti-Vietnamese guerrillas were still holding out yesterday at Nong Chan, an important resistance base in western Cambodia close to Thailand.

Denying earlier reports that the base had been overrun, Dr Abdul Gaffar, a senior military and political official of resistance, said fighting was continuing and the guerrillas' command centre still operating.



The local Thai Army commander on the border confirmed that the battle which began on Sunday was still going on and said that the Vietnamese appeared to be occupying about a third of the camp, which the Vietnamese have destroyed previously.

Dr Gaffar said neither side controlled Nong Chan. The fighting was going on in a seesaw fashion. The Vietnamese had burned down buildings, including a Red Cross hospital, schools and recreation centres.

He said Vietnamese casualties were estimated to be as many as 120 killed. They were heavy because about 2,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians loyal to the Vietnamese-backed regime in Phnom Penh had attacked in waves. Some of those waves had suffered direct hits by mortar shells. One wounded Vietnamese soldier when captured was surrounded by 20 dead comrades.

The only casualties he knew of among the guerrillas were five killed and 20 wounded, but the Thai Army and the Red Cross say there were many more. More than 50 severely wounded guerrillas and civilians have been admitted to an International Red Cross hospital in Thailand.

Dr Gaffar said the attack on Nong Chan was probably the beginning of an offensive against all the resistance bases. He said it could be the bloodiest offensive yet against those resisting Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

PEKING: Chinese troops repulsed a Vietnamese military incursion into southern China yesterday, the New China news agency said. (Reuters reports).

The Vietnamese, who attacked under cover of artillery fire, were routed and left a number of corpses behind in their retreat from the Laoshan area of the border province of Yunnan.

The agency, quoting military sources, added that Vietnamese troops had shelled Laoshan repeatedly in the past few days.

76% SAY 'DON'T CUT AID'

According to the latest Nielsen opinion poll published today:

76% of people questioned said the Government should maintain or increase its aid to poorer countries.

82% said the main purpose of aid should be the immediate relief and long-term prevention of famine.

Only 14% said the main purpose of aid should be to win export orders for British goods.

Last year the British public gave £18 million through Oxfam for its work. But this was not enough. Massive aid from Britain and other rich countries is vital to rescue the people of Ethiopia and the hungry elsewhere from terrible suffering and starvation.

The famines of 1984 will repeat themselves unless long-term aid is increased.

More aid is just one example of what we in Britain can do in the fight against hunger. Others are highlighted in Oxfam's Hungry for Change campaign.

Already thousands of people have fasted in sympathy with the hungry. Many more are backing an urgent petition on famine in Africa. Others are joining in local activities to express their concern about world hunger.

If you say we should do more, send for an information pack today and join the campaign.

I want to join Oxfam's Hungry for Change campaign. Please send me your free information pack.

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I enclose my donation of £

Please send to Guy Stringer, Room 704, Freeport, Oxford OX2 7BR. Telephone: 0865 56916 (24 hours).

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The Chad pact uproar

Credibility gap yawns for France

From Diana Geddes
Paris

The French Government yesterday failed to satisfy mounting criticism of its handling of the Chad affair.

Many political observers believe the credibility of both President Mitterrand and France is at stake, and that a full explanation is needed urgently.

There was no statement on the situation in Chad after yesterday's Cabinet meeting, as had been hoped. Nor has anything been said about the content of the critical letter from the National Assembly on Monday between M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, and President Mitterrand.

Under fire from Opposition MPs in the National Assembly yesterday, M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, said only that "all necessary measures would be taken to ensure the absolute respect of the withdrawal of French troops from Chad".

The *Liberation* newspaper, which has led the attack on the Government from the left over its handling of the affair, yesterday caused a new stir by publishing a confidential "note of information" from the General Secretariat of National Defence, within the Prime Minister's office, indicating not only that there were many more

Libyans accused of air attack

Ndjamena (AFP) - Libyan helicopters fired on a Chad Army patrol in north-west Chad, Mr Soumaila Mahamat, the Information Minister, said here yesterday.

He said that an Antonov transport plane had overflown Kouba Oulanga, in the north, and ATU, east of Ndjamena. Earlier Chad government sources said France was giving Libya one or two weeks to withdraw all its troops or face further French military action.

Libyan troops in Chad than admitted by the Government, but also that, far from withdrawing, they were being reinforced.

The note, sent to President Mitterrand on Tuesday, said 3,000 Libyan troops were in northern Chad, with 57 tanks, seven helicopters and several missile batteries.

When President Mitterrand admitted for the first time last Friday that Libyans were still in Chad despite the Franco-Libyan declaration on November 10 that the withdrawal was complete, he said there were only "two or three battalions of Libyan troops, amounting to between 800 and 1,200 men"

left, and that they possessed no heavy arms.

The Defence Ministry has dismissed the figures in the note of information as "ridiculous". They did not correspond to the information obtained from its own military intelligence sources, it said.

French military intelligence, nevertheless, has not apparently been able to detect any further withdrawals of Libyan troops

● WASHINGTON: To the intense disappointment of the Reagan Administration, France is refusing to distance itself from the Libyan regime, despite its intense embarrassment over the Chad affair (Christopher Thomas writes).

M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, said after two days of top-level talks in Washington that profound disagreements remained on how to deal with Libya.

In a thinly veiled criticism of American policy towards both Libya and the left-wing Government of Nicaragua, Mr Cheysson insisted it was wise to seek normal relations with Colonel Gaddafi because the American alternative could lead to military action against Libya.

M Cheysson returned to Paris on Tuesday night after separate meetings with Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Sec-

retary and Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, which were principally concerned with East-West relations and arms control issues.

In his parting remarks he sought to downplay French embarrassment over Colonel Gaddafi's failure to honour the Chad pact. He said there had been a substantial withdrawal of Libyan armoured equipment and troops, but added: "It is a great disappointment to us that the agreement was not fully implemented, that the signature was not totally respected."

American officials told M Cheysson Libya's failure to honour the agreement demonstrated its unreliability. As further evidence, they cited his bungled attempt to kill a political opponent in Egypt.

M Cheysson would not be moved. He told reporters American conclusions on how the Chad affair should be handled were not the same as France's, not of other European states.

He added: "Colonel Gaddafi is, I may say, a fact. He is there... His action is significant for countries which are very close friends of France - Tunisia, Algeria, Niger, Chad, Egypt and many others."

"So to ignore him would be a political mistake. We want to have normal relations with Libya."



Schoolgirls killed as class floors collapse

Courtrai, Belgium (AFP) - Three schoolgirls were killed and 16 injured when the floor of two classrooms collapsed as classes began for the day at a Roman Catholic school here.

Forty-six children, all between the ages of eight and 10, were in the classrooms when the floors caved in. Three injured girls were said to be in critical condition, but no teachers were hurt.

The accident happened at a time when the school was laying foundations for a new gymnasium. Queen Fabiola visited the injured girls in hospital.

Doctors want alcohol rationed

Stockholm (Reuters) - One hundred and fifty Swedish professors of medicine called for alcohol rationing to combat "unacceptable" damage from excessive drinking.

They sought support from doctors for a three-year trial period in which adults could not buy more than one and a half bottles of spirits or six bottles of wine a month.

Soviet soldiers repatriated

Geneva (AP) - Two Soviet soldiers captured by Afghan rebels in 1982 and interned in Switzerland for two years under a humanitarian accord, were repatriated yesterday, the Red Cross announced.

Their release brings to seven the number of Soviet soldiers freed under the accord, negotiated between the Red Cross, Soviet authorities and the main Afghan resistance movements.

Flogging order

Tehran (Reuters) - Five senior officials of Iran's Heavy Industries Ministry and 12 businessmen have been sentenced to be flogged, fined and sent into internal exile for accepting bribes, the Tehran newspaper *Kayhan* reported.

100 drowned

Dhaka (Reuters) - More than 100 people were feared drowned when a boat turned upside down with more than 500 passengers on board in mid-stream on the Kirtankhola river, near the town of Barisal.

Belize poll

Belize City (Reuters) - Mr George Price, the Belize Prime Minister, has called a general election for December 14 to elect an expanded 28-seat House of Representatives in the former British colony.

Soares dinner

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, last night had dinner with Mrs Margaret Thatcher after talks with her and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at 10 Downing Street. Earlier, he had an audience of the Queen.

Beaten to death

Catania (AP) - A 22-year-old Sicilian woman, severely beaten by her father with a stick for her engagement to a man he disapproved of, died while being taken to hospital. Her father has been charged with murder.

Indian Fagin

Delhi (AP) - Narain Mandal, a 65-year-old pavement dweller, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for kidnapping children and setting them up to beg by pretending they were maimed or injured.

Teacher jailed

Moscow (Reuters) - Yakov Levin, a Jewish teacher of Hebrew arrested and charged with anti-Soviet agitation, has been sentenced to three years in a labour camp after being tried in Odessa, Jewish sources said.

Police arrested

Rome (AP) - Seven men, including five policemen, have been arrested on charges of processing and marketing cocaine and hashish. They included a jeweller and the owner of a recreation centre.

Trawlers seized

Freetown (AFP) - Three Senegalese trawlers have been seized in Sierra Leone's waters for illegal shrimping.

Rebel claim

Nairobi (Reuters) - The Ugandan National Resistance Movement claimed that its guerrillas killed eight North Koreans and 20 Ugandan soldiers in a clash last week at Ngoma, 40 miles north of Kampala.

Spaced out

Paris (AFP) - Six hundred candidates have answered a government appeal for five astronauts for the French 1985-93 space programme. France has two fully fledged Soviet-trained astronauts, both airforce pilots.

Correction

Mr Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, was not present at Monday's press conference addressed by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, as stated on Tuesday.

West Bank student shot dead

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

The Israeli Army has launched an inquiry into the incident at the main West Bank university of Bir Zeit yesterday in which one unarmed Arab demonstrator was shot dead by Israeli troops and six other students were injured.

Details of the shooting were difficult to verify because the Israelis barred reporters from the small hospital where the dead and wounded students were taken. I was ordered away brusquely by a soldier with an automatic rifle barring the locked main entrance. The killing has further heightened tension in the occupied territories prior to today's meeting in Jordan of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile. More than 600 students were marching in support of Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman who convened the meeting, when the shooting broke out.

According to the army spokesman, the chanting students hurled stones, set fire to tyres and ignored orders to disperse. Before shots were fired one Israeli officer was hit on the head by a stone and rushed to hospital.

The military communiqué explained that after the marchers had refused to disperse the soldiers "were obliged to open fire in order to extricate themselves". Palestinian sources here claimed that the dead man, Sharif Chahil Taibe, a 23-year-old engineering student, from the Gaza Strip, had been shot in the chest by a single bullet which went right through him.



General Gilboa, head of Israel's delegation at the Naqoura talks.

News of the killing prompted anti-Israeli protests in Ramallah and the Israelis threw up road blockades round the occupied town. The Palestinian sources claimed that two of the wounded students had undergone emergency operations, but this could not be confirmed officially.

The incident was the most serious since the West Bank since Israel's national unity Government came to power pledged to improve living conditions for the 800,000 Palestinians living under occupation.

In a separate incident here yesterday fire destroyed the car of Mr Karem Khalaf, the deposed Arab mayor of Ramallah, who was wounded in a 1980 car bomb attack by Jewish militants. The fire was believed to be the work of Arafat loyalists, after Mr Khalaf's condemnation of the PNC meeting in the Jordanian capital.

Oil scandal blame for Giscard

Paris (AFP) - Former President Giscard d'Estaing acted unconstitutionally and illegally, Mr Raymond Barre, accused his power in handling the "sniffer plane" scandal which cost the state-owned oil company Elf 400m francs (£35m) in the 1970s, an official parliamentary report charged here yesterday.

M Giscard, who approved the plan to search for oil from aircraft fitted with special detection equipment, had acted "contrary to the constitution in not informing the Prime Minister" of the project.

The Prime Minister at the time was M Jacques Chirac. Without the former President's authority, the report argued, the scandal would never have existed. Flights were made over France, West Africa and South Africa between 1976 and 1979, but oil was never found. The celebrated "sniffing" device proved a fake.

Mr Chirac was succeeded by M Barre, who admitted to the commission that he had covered up numerous financial irregularities concerning the sniffing investigation for reasons of state. The parliamentary commission ruled that it was an abuse of his power, as he could only have rightly claimed reasons of state for a defence secret.

M Giscard and M Barre were blamed for "leading their own authority and the credit of the state in what was, in fact, a lamentable embezzlement".

Leading article, page 13

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The idea of this new national organization is to overcome one way in which the quota system was devised specifically to impose limits on production on individual farms or dairies. By

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Marcos defies rumours

President Marcos of the Philippines reading yesterday's edition of the country's biggest-selling newspaper which reports his statement that he is well, in the wake of persistent rumours that he was gravely ill after a secret operation (Keith Dalton writes).

On Tuesday Mrs Corazon Aquino, widow of the assassinated opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, recommended that the President be photographed in such a way to dispel rumours that he was dying or dead.

Mrs Imelda Marcos, the President's wife, confirmed yesterday that her husband had been ill, but denied he had undergone major surgery.

President Marcos had bronchitis and

bronchial pneumonia and would be up and about in three to four days, she told the Roman Catholic Radio Veritas.

Mr Marcos dropped from public view eight days ago and Mr Francisco Tatad, a former Information Minister, said he had undergone kidney and heart surgery.

But Mrs Marcos said: "It's not true. They're making a mountain out of a molehill." Her husband was now recuperating on the presidential yacht, away from the polluted air round the presidential palace.

The photograph and Mrs Marcos's radio interview came 24 hours after the palace issued an official statement quoting Mr Marcos saying he was in good health and fully discharging his duties.

Boy George lures the wanted men

From Trevor Fishlock
New York

Boy George, the flamboyant British pop singer, was the irresistible lure for 12 wanted men in America.

Police tricked them into believing they had won free tickets to see the star. When they turned up to collect, the police pounced.

The arrests were part of the biggest round-up of fugitives ever mounted in the United States. Police in eight states, members of Fugitive Investigation Strike Team, or First caught 3,309 bail jumpers and escapes.

More than half were classed as armed and dangerous, the "baddest of the bad", said Mr Stanley Morris, director of the US Marshals Service. Sixty-three of the fugitives were wanted for murder or manslaughter and 103 for rape.

Many were caught through routine detective work. But several were lured from hiding by a number of ruses like the Boy George trick. In another, police wrote to fugitives' last known addresses, notifying them that valuable parcels awaited collection.

A fake company was set up, the Brooklyn Bridge Delivery Service, which drew 43 parcel-seeking victims.

"The American people are safer," Mr William French Smith, the Attorney General, said of the round-up.

Kirkpatrick's mellowing may have come too late

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

President Reagan's decision to pass over Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American representative at the United Nations, for a top foreign policy post emphasizes the priority the Administration gives to a resumption of arms talks and concern that it should not be encumbered by the conservative ideology of the kind she embraces.

Her announcement on Tuesday that she would return to private life after the General Assembly session which ends next month seemed to demonstrate that her failure to secure an appointment as Secretary of State or National Security Adviser left little scope for a meaningful role in the Administration.

But it also allows conservative supporters to lobby for the creation of a special foreign policy post, perhaps in the area of Central America which is Mrs Kirkpatrick's forte.

Some officials at the UN mission here tried to minimize the impact of Mrs Kirkpatrick's announcement, claiming that any talk of resignation was premature until her meeting

with the President next month. This seemed to indicate that she might be persuaded to stay in the Administration, if the offer was attractive.

A former Georgetown University professor, she came to the attention of President Reagan before his first term, with her uncompromising views on the Soviet Union and advocacy of a foreign policy guided by strong rivalry with Moscow.

Mrs Kirkpatrick's friends say she has long been frustrated by the squabbles over foreign policy and has been looking forward to a return to academic life. With no obvious job in the offing, a temporary retreat from politics seems likely.

She began her UN term in 1981 with a deliberately aggressive posture and an expressed mission to confront critics of the United States. She has since mellowed, acknowledging that the more discreet pursuit of diplomacy can at times be more profitable.

Most agree that Mrs Kirkpatrick has learnt how to play the game.

Andreotti unruffled by tax evasion debate

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The two houses of Parliament, meeting in joint session, should be in a position by tomorrow to vote on whether or not to proceed against Signor Giulio Andreotti, the controversial Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Despite a calm opening last night, the debate could develop into the political spectacular of the year, given the evidence of the person under attack and the nature of the allegations against him.

Signor Andreotti is far and away the most striking personality in the ranks of the Christian Democratic Party, which remains the biggest party in Parliament. He has already survived an attempt in Parliament to bring him down on alleged connections with Michele Sindona, the criminal bankrupt now awaiting trial before a Milan court, and he faces a revival of charges which involved him 10 years ago in scandal concerning widespread tax evasion of petroleum products.

The general feeling is that Signor Andreotti will survive

once again; he was in cheerful mood at the beginning of the debate.

While he was Minister of Defence in 1974 Signor Andreotti is said to have helped impose the appointment of General Raffaele Giordano as head of the Ministry of Finance's police. The general was later sent to prison for his part in the tax evasion scandal. He was also found to be a member of the illegal Masonic lodge P2, which has been defined by Parliament as subversive.

Signor Andreotti's part in the affair has already been examined twice by Parliament's commission of inquiry, on the request of the Turin judges investigating the scandal. On both occasions there was a majority in his favour, but the Communists asked for a further investigation.

Signor Andreotti has made clear that he feels his political career, which has so far lasted 40 years, most of them spent in ministerial office, is in no way at an end.

Romanian early closing

Bucharest (Reuters) - Romania announced yesterday that the thirteenth congress of the ruling Communist Party would close today a day early.

Official sources said the congress, would hold a final plenary session today.

Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, aged 66, who has headed the party since 1965, has been the object of lavish praise from those of

the 3,100 delegates who have addressed the congress. His reappointment to head the party for a further five-year term is seen as a foregone conclusion. Mr Stefan Andrei, the Foreign Minister, strengthened this view yesterday, when he told the congress that Mr Ceausescu's reelection "represents a sure guarantee of the continuance of Romania's active foreign policy."

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EEC to crack down on rogue milk producers

From Ian Murray
Brussels

A get-tough policy against members ignoring milk production limits was agreed yesterday by the European Commission, which gave a warning that countries failing to enforce the Community's controversial quota system would be taken to court. The first "super levy" on excess production would have to be paid on December 15.

EEC agriculture ministers agreed last March to impose a

quota system on dairy farmers because milk production was soaring beyond demand and using up nearly a quarter of Community resources. Italy, however, has since done nothing to implement the scheme, while France confessed last week it was not yet able to administer it.

British dairies have cut production below the level imposed so the Milk Marketing Board is immune from any super levy. The same is not true of Northern Ireland. The Commission is studying

how the scheme is being applied and intends to prosecute any country it believes is failing to honour the March agreement.

Apart from Italy and France, there is a question mark over the system in the Irish Republic and Denmark, where an artificial operation based on the British Milk Marketing Board has been set up.

The idea of this new national organization is to overcome one way in which the quota system was devised specifically to impose limits on production on individual farms or dairies. By

creating artificially - what amounts to a national dairy, Ireland and Denmark have - in the Commission's view - been trying to cheat. The "gross national dairy" covering the entire country can transfer over-production at one farm to under-production at another, and so sidestep the regulations.

Even if the quota system is successful and firmly policed the Community will produce more than 10 million tonnes of milk than it consumes each year.

Rebuff for MEPs over budget

From Our Own
Correspondent
Brussels

Relations between EEC member states and the elected representatives of the people of the Community deteriorated last night when an angry delegation from the European Parliament failed to persuade the Council of Ministers that MEPs must have a greater say in the way the Community budget is controlled.

The Euro-MPs, led by M Peire Piliimin, the parliament's president, were trying to convince the council that they should write a role for the parliament into new rules to control EEC spending, which was agreed by ministers earlier this month.

But the council, which has managed to reach agreement on the rules only after months of difficult argument, was not prepared to allow the parliament more than the continuing right to consultation in drawing up the budget.

With so much bad blood between the two institutions, it is increasingly likely that the parliament will vote next month to reject the Community's budget for 1985. It would then try to use this rejection as a lever to prise more power away from member states.

Chess title draws drag on

Moscow (AP) - Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, and his challenger, Gary Kasparov, agreed to a draw, the seventeenth in a row, in the twenty-sixth match of their world championship here yesterday.

Kasparov played white. A draw was agreed after 23 moves.

Twenty-sixth game
White Kasparov, Black Karpov
1 Nf3 Nf6 2 e4 e5 3 Nxe5 d5 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Nxe5 d5 6 Nf3 Nf6 7 Nxe5 d5 8 Nf3 Nf6 9 Nxe5 d5 10 Nf3 Nf6 11 Nxe5 d5 12 Nf3 Nf6 13 Nxe5 d5 14 Nf3 Nf6 15 Nxe5 d5 16 Nf3 Nf6 17 Nxe5 d5 18 Nf3 Nf6 19 Nxe5 d5 20 Nf3 Nf6 21 Nxe5 d5 22 Nf3 Nf6 23 Nxe5 d5 24 Nf3 Nf6 25 Nxe5 d5 26 Nf3 Nf6 27 Nxe5 d5 28 Nf3 Nf6 29 Nxe5 d5 30 Nf3 Nf6 31 Nxe5 d5 32 Nf3 Nf6 33 Nxe5 d5 34 Nf3 Nf6 35 Nxe5 d5 36 Nf3 Nf6 37 Nxe5 d5 38 Nf3 Nf6 39 Nxe5 d5 40 Nf3 Nf6 41 Nxe5 d5 42 Nf3 Nf6 43 Nxe5 d5 44 Nf3 Nf6 45 Nxe5 d5 46 Nf3 Nf6 47 Nxe5 d5 48 Nf3 Nf6 49 Nxe5 d5 50 Nf3 Nf6 51 Nxe5 d5 52 Nf3 Nf6 53 Nxe5 d5 54 Nf3 Nf6 55 Nxe5 d5 56 Nf3 Nf6 57 Nxe5 d5 58 Nf3 Nf6 59 Nxe5 d5 60 Nf3 Nf6 61 Nxe5 d5 62 Nf3 Nf6 63 Nxe5 d5 64 Nf3 Nf6 65 Nxe5 d5 66 Nf3 N

You'll find our efficient new 1.8 litre engine is a little less taxing.

Sierra '85

Now the 1985 Ford Sierra has a third new engine. First came the efficient 1.6 litre E-max which can do over 50 mpg at 56 mph[†] with a 5-speed gearbox.

Then there was the much refined 2.0 litre, which has a maximum speed of 110 mph^{*}. And which is smoother and quieter than ever.

And now here's the new 1.8 litre engine as well.

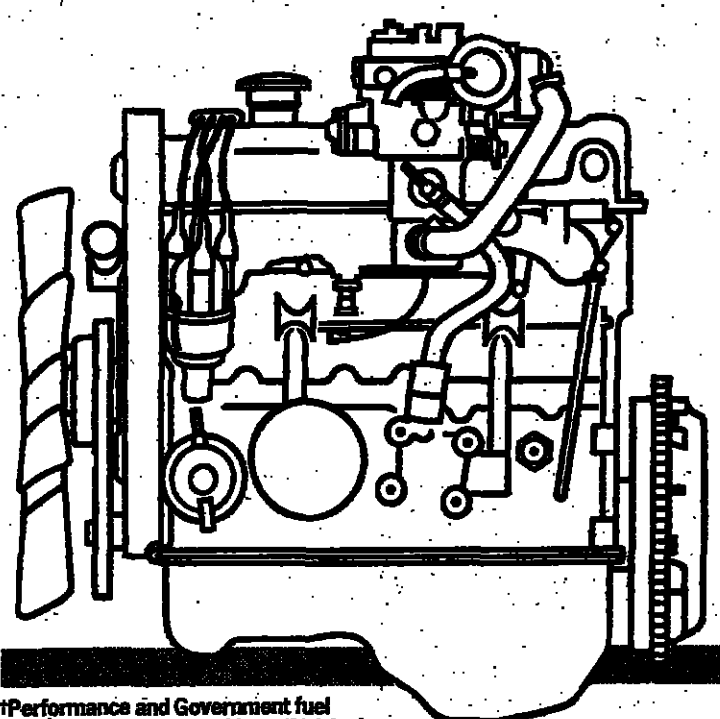
This will be especially good news for anyone who drives a company car.

Because for only a little extra money it gives you noticeably more performance than the 1.6. And, having been tested as only Ford test their new engines, it's sure to be reliable.

Not only that, but it slots neatly into the sub-1800 tax bracket, so the extra power won't lighten your pay packet.

But that's not all that's new about Sierra '85. Because, as usual, Ford is giving you more.

Petrol engine versions of both L's and



[†]Performance and Government fuel economy figures - mpg (litres/100 km):

Saloon models	56 mph (90 km/h)	75 mph (120 km/h)	Urban Cycle	Max. speed [*] (mph)
1.6 5-speed	51.4 (5.5)	39.8 (7.1)	31.7 (8.9)	103
1.8 5-speed	47.1 (6.0)	37.2 (7.6)	31.4 (9.0)	110
2.0 5-speed	48.7 (5.8)	38.2 (7.4)	27.4 (10.3)	116
2.0 4-speed Auto	46.3 (6.1)	36.7 (7.7)	26.6 (10.6)	114

^{*}Ford computed figures.

The new 1.8 litre engine develops 90 PS. It features electronic spark control and Ford's latest 'lean-burn' cylinder head design which means simply that it breathes in more air and less fuel.

GL's get handsome new front-end styling very similar to the Ghia's.

We've also made the 5-speed gearbox standard in 1.6 GL's, just as it is in all 1.8 and 2.0 litre models.

We've an advanced new 4-speed automatic gearbox - a new option for 2.0 litre models. The fourth gear is an overdrive which helps make it almost as economical as a 5-speed manual[†].

And there are many more detail improvements to the range - new wheel covers, new instruments and smarter interior trim to name a few.

As for options, here's one that's very rarely found in family cars. Air conditioning. It's now available in the 2.0 litre Ghia and, of course, the XR4i.

On top of all that, we now give you a Six Year Corrosion Assurance. With this, plus our optional Extra Cover Warranty, plus the Ford Dealer's Lifetime Repair Guarantee, the Sierra '85 driver can be protected into the 1990's.

It's one of the family.



Ford cares about quality.



General shot as Spain is caught in spiral of political violence

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A Spanish Army general was seriously wounded in an attack by two gunmen in a Madrid street yesterday only 15 hours after a prominent Basque separatist politician was shot dead in his surgery in Bilbao.

After a year of relative success against terrorism, the Government of Señor Felipe González is faced with spiralling political violence not unlike the one that plagued preceding centre-democratic (UCD) governments.

Police said they suspected the Military Wing of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization, to have been responsible for the attack from the kind of ammunition they used.

The shot officer, General Luis Rosón, aged 66, a brother of a former UCD Interior Minister, had retired only four days ago from a desk job at the Army's general headquarters in Madrid. He was said by his family to be out of danger after an operation.

The two young assailants opened fire at both sides of the general's car as it was passing through a shopping street. They managed to get away after the ambush.

The soldier driving the general's car was also seriously injured, but his skilful accelerating at the moment of the attack was praised by Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence

Minister, saying that it probably saved General Rosón's life. The minister left a Cabinet meeting to visit the general hospital.

Dr Santiago Brouard, the head of one of the extreme left-wing Basque nationalist parties close to ETA which belongs to the Basque People's Unity coalition, was assassinated while attending to a baby in his surgery.

Responsibility for his murder was claimed by callers belonging to GAL, a murky, counter-terrorist group, which has for the past 11 months dedicated itself to eliminating ETA members or their sympathizers.

If the callers were telling the truth, it would be the first time the GAL has assassinated anyone inside Spain, having previously preferred to operate in south-west France. A French-speaking spokesman for the group telephoned a Basque radio station on Tuesday night explicitly denying that GAL had been involved.

The time of the doctor's murder was carefully chosen and the ninth anniversary yesterday of Franco's death makes it likely that the extreme right carried out the assassination.

The Basque regional government is locked in a bitter internal struggle and almost daily clashes occur in Bilbao

between shipyard workers and the police.

All the Basque political parties are backing a call for a one-day general strike today.

Violent street disturbances organized by supporters of the People's Unity coalition, which wants self-determination for the Basque region and came third in the regional elections, occurred on Tuesday night in Bilbao and other towns.

The Basque political parties yesterday seized Dr Brouard's assassination to demand that Madrid should now take seriously the need for full-scale political negotiations as the only way to solve the Basque problem and end the spiralling violence.

Relatives of General Rosón told reporters that, although he had a bullet lodged in his liver, he was out of danger. Hospital officials said, however, that both he and his driver were in serious condition (Reuter reports).

According to officials, the gunmen pumped 23 bullets into the general's vehicle.

In San Sebastian, police clashed with about 1,000 youths protesting against Dr Brouard's murder. The demonstrators marched through the city centre chanting pro-ETA slogans and hurling petrol bombs and stones at the police, who responded with rubber bullets and tear gas.



Highway of despair: Ethiopian famine refugees crossing the desert to the Wad Sharafin camp on the Sudanese border, where 22,000 victims like the mother and child above, are crowded into facilities built for 5,000. The child died later.

Russians airlift Ethiopian refugees

From Thomson Prentice Addis Ababa

Thousands of famine refugees are being airlifted in Soviet transport planes for resettlement in distant areas of Ethiopia.

Yesterday groups of 150 men, women and children were being shepherded aboard Russian aircraft at Mekele and flown 300 miles south to the capital or to landing strips further to the south or south-west. From there they were being taken in convoys of lorries or buses to camps in sparsely populated but fertile areas.

The operation was witnessed yesterday by RAF Hercules crews delivering food to Mekele, where many thousands of peasants are occupying emergency feeding centres. Other observers believe the airlift of people began last Sunday and that several thousand have now been flown south.

The movement of famine victims by air is a new development in the Ethiopian Government's controversial resettlement programme.

Resettlement has for some time been Government policy for northern peasants who have been badly hit by the drought. But many of the refugees are reluctant to go.

The project is opposed by the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, which is reported to have hijacked a convoy of seven vehicles carrying refugees from the Korem area at the weekend.

There is no suggestion that the RAF will get involved in moving people.

LONDON: Famine involving great human suffering will be repeated "right across Africa" unless there is an immediate shift in overseas aid, the Commons foreign affairs select committee was told last night (Richard Evans writes).

Oxfam, Britain's leading overseas aid agency, told MPs that the crisis in Africa could only be solved by helping poor farmers to increase food production, and not by flying in tonnes of surplus food.

The committee, which was starting an inquiry into famine in Africa, was given a similarly stark warning by the Save the Children Fund, which said it was an indictment of the international aid community that tragedies like that happening in Ethiopia continued to occur.

RAISON VISIT: Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, will visit Ethiopia from November 25 to 27 to see Britain's famine relief effort in operation. He will also meet representatives of the Ethiopian Government. The next step, page 12

Pretoria to set Angola pullout date

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

Angolan and South African ministers will meet soon to fix a date for completion of the withdrawal of Pretoria's troops from southern Angola, a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said here yesterday.

The announcement came after a meeting last Monday at Ngiva, 25 miles inside Angola, of the joint monitoring commission which was set up by Pretoria and Luanda in February to supervise the pullout.

FOURTEEN Portuguese and Bulgarian held in southern Angola arrived in Johannesburg yesterday after their release by Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels (AP reports).

Among the 11 Portuguese citizens were four women, one held hostage since August 1983, and a four-month-old baby. Two of the three Bulgarians were women.

Reporters who met black activists appear in court

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Two journalists on the Rand Daily Mail, one of South Africa's leading liberal newspapers, appeared briefly in a Johannesburg magistrate's court yesterday after being subpoenaed to testify about statements made to them by black political activists.

No charges were put to the two reporters, Miss Jeanette Minnie and Mr Anton Harber, who were told to appear again in the same court on November 30. Two other journalists, Mr Gary van Staden of The Star, and Mr Graham Watts of the Sunday Express, have also been subpoenaed.

Mr van Staden is due to appear in court tomorrow and Mr Watts on November 28. As in the case of Miss Minnie and Mr Harber, their subpoenas were served under section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act, under which anyone refusing to answer questions from the police can be brought before a magistrate.

Messages of protest have been teleaxed to Mr P. W. Botha, the South African state President, by Mr Peter Galliner, director of International Press Institute, and by Mr Ken Ashton, the general secretary of

the National Union of Journalists.

Mrs Helen Suzman, the spokesman on law and order of the main white opposition party, said that the use of Section 205 to compel journalists to disclose their sources of information, or to reveal further information given to them in the course of doing their job, would be a crippling blow to the concept of press freedom.

Last September two foreign television teams working for Visnews and for ARD of West Germany had video footage confiscated by security policemen in Soweto, the sprawling African township south-west of Johannesburg, after filming the funeral of a black killed in clashes between police and rioters.

Visnews has been informed by the police that the film is to be used in a criminal investigation and that a member of its television crew may be required to give evidence. It is presumed that the police want to use the film to identify political activists attending the funeral.

There is already hostility to television reporters among township Africans.

Commonwealth begs Britain to stay in Unesco

By Rodney Cowton

About 40 Commonwealth High Commissioners and representatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat are believed to have made a final effort last night to persuade Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, that Britain should not give up its membership of Unesco.

They were having a routine meeting with Sir Geoffrey and other Foreign Office ministers. These meetings take place about twice a year, the last one having been in May.

Last week the High Commissioners combined to write a letter to Sir Geoffrey urging the Government to change its mind, and they are thought to have taken the opportunity of last night's meeting to reinforce their argument that Britain should remain a member of Unesco while continuing to press for reforms which they all supported.

A Cabinet committee was expected to discuss the issue this week.

Zimbabwe frees 58 held after killing of senator

From Jan Raath Harare

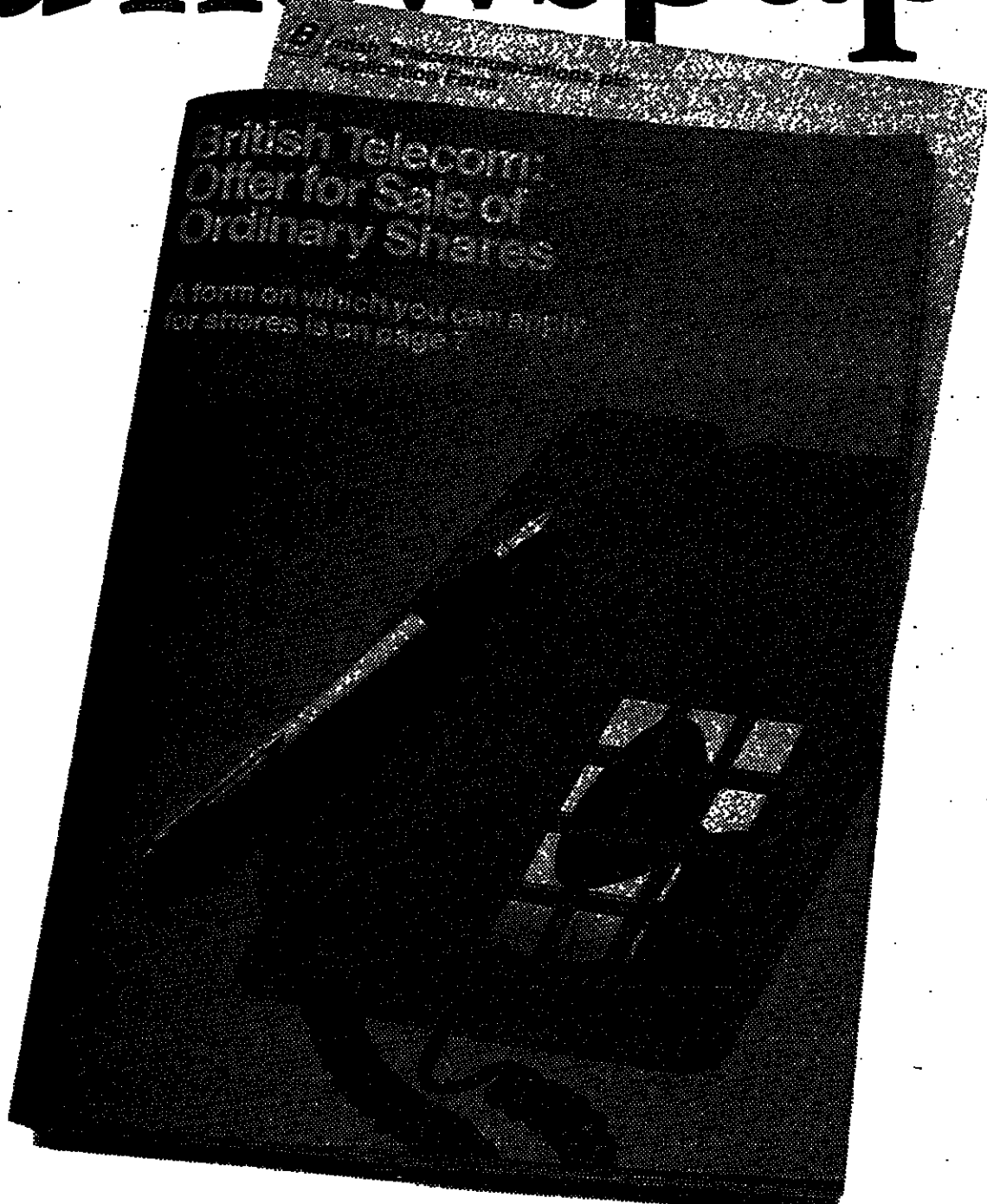
About 58 people, including three whites, detained after the murder of a government senator in the southern border town of Beitbridge, have been freed.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, told the House of Assembly yesterday 80 people had been held after the murder.

The three whites were freed late yesterday afternoon. Mr Mervyn Kluckow, a Beitbridge hotelier and member of the Beitbridge-Mwenzi rural council, was released from Donnington police station in Bulawayo, while lawyers drove 30 miles south of the city to fetch Mr Lou Watson, the council's secretary, from Esigodini, and then on to Gwanda, 30 miles further south, to fetch Mr Raymond Roth.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the opposition Zapu party, said that as far as he knew three members of his party's Central Committee were in detention.

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A black and white photograph showing several large, stylized banknotes or checks fanned out. The visible amounts are £700,000, £300,000, £1,000,000, and £700,000. The text 'WELSH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY' is visible on the £1,000,000 note. The image has a high-contrast, grainy appearance.

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Still a Virgin but worldly wise

The Times Profile: Richard Branson

Richard Branson, looking rumpled and relaxed in corduroys and a thick sweater, with a V (for Virgin) on it, admits that his rumpled and relaxed image is deceptive.

A bit of the old steel, not deeply subcutaneous, shows through as he talks. He doesn't need to say that you do not build a £150 million business empire by the age of 34 by being a pushover and an old softie.

Here in New York, sprawled on a sofa, hoarse from fatigue and talking, he is discussing his Virgin group of companies, the record studios, shops, clubs, publishing, films and the cheap-fare airline, that have grown in one of the most remarkable chain reactions of modern business.

"It has been a sweaty month," he says, ruefully. He has been in the United States to make his airline better known and to set up a Virgin record company. Meanwhile, he has had a public disagreement with the director of the acclaimed film 1984, which Virgin funded. Mr Branson insisted the film should have a soundtrack the director did not want. Paying the piper, he called the tune: a bit of the old steel.

As his group, and his profits, grow, he says he regrets that it is "possible we have reached the stage" of going public, adding that "it's one thing to worry about staff and yourself, another to worry about shareholders."

He seems, almost wistfully, to be marking the end of an era. "I never wanted to go public, but you get to such a size that there is a tremendous pressure to do so," he grumbles. "I don't see how you can run a company with a board of directors. I have had only one experience of a board meeting and I hated it. Still, I would only give about 10 per cent in shares. I believe in benevolent dictatorships."

Mr Branson breaks out one of his famous large and infectious smiles. He is an engaging and informal fellow, a ready and candid talker and his own best publicist. He has been in business these past 18 years, almost as long as Ronald Reagan has been in politics. As an entrepreneur he was a whizz and a kid: a boy prodigy, one of those commercial eruptions of the free-wheeling 1960s.

He is not at all a working-class lad driven by dreams of mansion, yacht and Rolls. On the contrary, he has sought to recreate the agreeable country

life and family existence he enjoyed as a child. He maintains a close relationship with his parents and talks of his father with admiration. Father is a judge and springs from generations of judges.

Boy Richard, however, was not destined for the family trade. He dropped out of Stowe school to found a magazine for students, working from a phone box to drum up advertising and buttonholing the likes of Jean-Paul Sartre and Vanessa Redgrave for interviews or articles. He is blessed with a happy mixture of charm and shrewdness, a sunny nature and the sharpest instinct for business opportunity.

After the magazine he started a mail-order discount record business, the first Virgin company (Virgin because of his inexperience in business), opened record shops and, in 1971, founded the recording company which is now the core of his empire and one of the most profitable in Britain. He was a millionaire by 20.

With music he has always trusted his instinct for innovative sounds. Virgin's first record, in 1972, was Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells*, and the stable has since included Tangerine Dream, The Sex Pistols, Culture Club, Genesis and Heaven 17.

Quite early on, still a teenager, and being someone who does something rather than saying something should be done, he started the Student Advisory Centre (now called Help). Its roots lay in his own experience, the desperation he and his girlfriend felt, when she became pregnant and they searched for a long time before finding help and an abortion. The advisory centre, giving advice on pregnancy, VD, drugs and depression occupied much of his time. "It was part of my education," he says, "along with the street savvy I acquired as a kid."

He is sensitive about his lack of higher education, but regards his businesses as a form of education. "The *Student* magazine was a kind of schooling and learning how to run an airline has been my university. I've never wanted to be a businessman at first. I wanted to be an editor. But I soon saw that to be an editor you have to be a businessman."

Richard Branson sees himself as being, in some ways, a sort of Victorian entrepreneur, making his own rules. He certainly takes risks, but he drives a hard



High flyer: Richard Branson, the cheap flights king, in pilot's headgear

bargain and talks of his caution and of the stability of Virgin's recording stable and the loyalty of his 1,500 employees who evidently like working for him.

He could not stand to be quartered in some corporate tower. Instead he still works in the Regent's Canal houseboat in North London which he bought when he started (though he has a house in London, a 14th century manor in Oxford and has recently bought a 74-acre atoll in, where else, the Virgin Islands).

His employees and companies are scattered in a number of small offices and houses in London, because, he says, people work better in small groups. He encourages staff to move around in the organization, takes on very young people to give them a chance and listens to their ideas, and backs new projects and inventions.

"The business and banking climate in Britain is incredibly cautious," he says. "Banks make it hard for new businesses to get going. We need venture capitalists to improve British business and to reduce unemployment. It is much harder to take a company from one pound to a million pounds than from £1 million to £200 million."

In starting his airline, Virgin Atlantic, he studied the lessons of the collapse of Sir Freddie Laker's Skytrain. "We are here to make it pay, and we went into it with our eyes wide open. I know it is a tussle with the major airlines. They would rather that we weren't around."

We save passengers £35 million on the Atlantic route, and it is embarrassing for them."

Mr Branson says Virgin is not really taking business from the major airlines. It has one plane and a small fraction of the market. "But we have increased the market by 2 per cent."

"We have done remarkably well. We fly on average 80 per cent full and have broken even to date, not including set-up costs. We lease a Boeing 747 because it has a better image than the Laker DC10s, and it has a freight capacity that makes it more profitable."

On the day of the maiden flight in June Mr Branson wept for joy. After all, he believes work should be an adventure and fun. But he never felt he had a mission to bring low fares

to the multitude. His move into air travel was business, not idealism. "It is true we get hundreds of letters from people thanking us for enabling them to get to America, something they could not otherwise afford. But it has to pay."

He says he knew that to make the venture a success he would have to get it talked about. Hence the photographs of the Virgin king in a braided Ruritanian uniform and of him in a bubble bath, clutching a model Boeing.

He doesn't really like Virgin's tabloid appellation of "rock 'n' roll airlines", but he likes to emphasise that his airline is different and fun.

But publicity is only part of the battle with the major airlines. Virgin's new cheap

service to Maastricht in Holland is meant to be a financial safety net if and when the Atlantic price war starts again.

In the meantime, Mr Branson, being a commercial polymath, has much to occupy him. The film business, as he says, "ties in nicely" with his other interests, and all three of Virgin's productions, *A Shocking Accident*, *Electric Dreams*, and 1984, with Richard Burton and John Hurt, are successful. A fourth film is being shot in Australia, a country with which he would like to establish a low-fare air link.

As for the slightly zany image he projects on behalf of his airline, and his unorthodox ways of working, Richard Branson has a fairly ordinary private life and outlook. "I could go out drinking champagne from ladies' shoes, I suppose, but it's not for me."

He is devoted to his girlfriend, Joan, and their daughter, Holly, and avoids working at weekends, keeping them free for his Oxford mansion, country life and occasional coarse cricket.

Except when he flies Virgin he travels economy class. "I never thought the extra comfort was worth the extra money. Anyway, that sort of luxury would go against the grain of my upbringing. As an airline boss I can travel first class and free on other airlines, but, frankly, I don't think I have the courage to ring them up and ask."

Trevor Fishlock

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research EGYPTOLOGY

A plague of lawyers



Ancient Egypt was a bureaucratic paradise, a constant danger of disappearing beneath mounds of papyrus. However, it now looks as if, in addition to the well-known biblical plagues, the country was also ridden with lawyers. Classical authors remarked that the Egyptians spent much time suing one another; advocacy was bound to develop as a service industry.

Shortly before the Second World War a document was found in a jar at Hermopolis in Middle Egypt, and a brief glance at its contents gave it the name of the Hermopolis Legal Code.

Now that it is published one can see that it is really a textbook for aspiring lawyers, rather than the long-lost wording of the laws of Pharaoh. It is a masterpiece of the "but what if?" mentality, operating on the sound principle that what can go wrong will go wrong and, with luck, can be spun out rather profitably.

The surviving chapters deal with the leasing of houses and other property (a common feature of a society where few people accumulated much capital), and in one case the hiring of a beer tent. Ancient lights also loom large.

The manual moves on to bad neighbours and what to do about them, and the provocative question of who a man's eldest son is if he has no children. Bailiffs and writs abound. A clear case of California by the Nile, with a touch of Irish R.M. thrown in.

Song of Egypt

How much of ancient Egypt is in the Bible? It has been known for years that sentiments in the Book of Proverbs and in Psalms also appear in Egyptian literature, but deciding which is the horse and which the cart is a seemingly endless procedure.

Less well known are the links

Roman Egypt than in any society of the West before the eighteenth century.

The picture that emerges from Lewis's study is truly depressing: economic exploitation, a native population vindictively deprived of the rights freely given to other provinces, coercion of the peasantry, strikes and desertions leading to even more repressive counter measures.

Things reached a political nadir in the great revolts under Trajan and his successors; yet this was the time that the historian *Decline and Fall* described as "the period in the history of the world, during which the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous".

Daily delights

A rather laid-back lifestyle is revealed in a magnificent catalogue from the Boston Museum, *Egypt's Golden Age* (Boston, 1982). This is the product of an exhibition to which 35 museums and galleries contributed, and it concentrates on objects of daily life from the high period of the Egyptian Empire (1500-1000 BC).

Here is a world of decorated dinner services, an exquisite reed mat, wine jars with inscribed vintages, golden bowls, chairs, some with a marked art deco tendency, mosaic glass a millennium before Rome, bed



linen preserved intact, cosmetic spoons, a double oboe still in its case, earstuds (worn, of course, by men), gaming boards and pieces, and a vase in the shape of an overweight hedgehog.

Here are the fleshpots of Egypt made manifest. What a feast.

The last word

It might be thought that Egyptologists are an atrophied lot, firmly rooted in the obsolescent. Far from it - the methods of the

twenty-first century are already being embraced, and with enthusiasm. For years now the subject has had a German dictionary of hieroglyphic words spelt backwards (useful if one has a broken inscription, where the beginnings of words are lost), but art demands that we move on.

In Paris this summer there was an international colloquium on the computerization of hieroglyphs. In Providence, Rhode Island, a dictionary of late (ie post-1400 BC) Egyptian is being produced on a computer. In Chicago the first comprehensive dictionary of later Egyptian is being constructed on an Apple Macintosh, particularly suited to the shorthand script.

In Cambridge a fully digitalized team is recording the capital city of Akhenaten and Nefertiti, with computerized lists of finds and potsherds and grain silos, and they have succeeded by means of technology in producing a printed report which Egyptologists can actually afford.

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Berlin Game, Granada £1.95 Mexico Set, Hutchinson £8.95

Do you seriously want to be a food and wine snob? You do? Good. Here is Uncle Vintage to answer some of your questions on foodysim. I find it increasingly difficult to spot some area in wine appreciation which is not already over-developed. Can you suggest one? D. B. of Dulwich

Uncle Vintage writes: Good question. The reading of labels has been done to death. Good and bad years have been done to death, as have good and bad areas. It has been fashionable recently to bone up on the names of grapes, but that's been done to death as well. I suggest one to which you become a cask snob.

Recently I overheard a wine buff saying: "I tasted a selection of Napa Valley reds the other day, all matured in different kinds of cask, and the difference was enormous - even though the wine was basically all the same wine. One really has to know one's casks." It silenced the table for almost a minute.

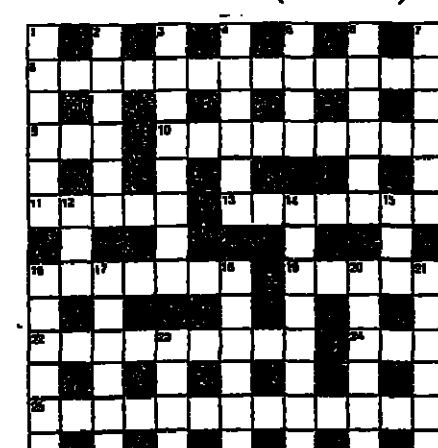
What about corks? B. C. of Chelsea.

Uncle Vintage writes: Good! If you're lagging behind in a wine conversation, I find it very useful to say: "Considering that wine comes into contact with cork far longer than it does with grapes, I think it's scandalous how much we know about grapes and how little about corks."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 502)

- ACROSS
8 Cinema (7,6)
9 Automobile (3)
10 Moral standard (9)
11 Stairs (5)
13 Coroner's inquiry (7)
16 Lives (7)
19 Smyrna (5)
22 Appennine rep (3,6)
24 Delinquent youth (3)
25 Of another period (15)

- DOWN
1 Tiny marks (6)
2 Insufficient (6)
3 Presumed (8)
4 Twins (6)
5 Body powder (4)
6 Hoarding bird (6)
7 Deprived (6)
12 Delinquent (3)
14 Idealistic (8)
15 Glide over snow (3)
SOLUTION TO No 501:
ACROSS: 1 Runic 4 Kitbag 7 Nias 8 Wizardry 9 Teardrop 13 Beg 16 Circumference 17 Man 19 Dreadful 24 Believer 25 Spot 26 Editor 27 Sydney
DOWN: 1 Rink 2 Sanhedrin 3 Coward 4 Kazoo 5 Turf 6 Agree 10 Round 11 Rifle 12 Pared 13 Bantustan 14 Glee 15 Scum 18 Amend 20 River 21 Anas 22 Hint 23 Spy



moreover... Miles Kingston

cork." Drop in the name of a good cork, and you're away. I have been a real ale bore for some time now, and I would like to move on. What can you suggest? H. N. of Bradford.

Uncle Vintage writes: You could become a real trend-setter here. Become a real lager bore! As you know, lager forms something like 30 per cent of the beer market now, and nasty, bland over-priced, under-developed stuff most of it is. All those Germanic-sounding names fool us into thinking we're getting the real quality German stuff. We're not. It's the keg beer story all over again. I'm amazed that there are no real lager bores in our bars yet. I read an article the other day about gourmet beer drinkers, specifying which beers should be drunk with fish, meat, Indian food etc. Do you think it is worth cultivating this approach? B. S. of Cardiff.

Uncle Vintage writes: Not really, no I saw this article too, and it was written by an American. You have got to remember that the Americans always go too far when they embrace a new idea. Anyway, we tend to drink beers outside meal times. Why not make a study of which ales go best with darts, cricket, snooker, rugby etc? This would probably go down better in Britain.

I am thinking of becoming a coffee snob. Can you advise? H. de C. of Chelsea.

Uncle Vintage writes: A tempting thought, but you've chosen the wrong country to do it in. Britain doesn't care about coffee. I think we are the only

country in the world where, if you ask for a coffee, it automatically comes with milk. Instead, if you offer someone here Chinese Arabica, 99 out of a hundred will think they're being given a shrub for their garden. Still, you can always try.

Is it worth making your own pasta? U. R. D. of Worthing.

Uncle Vintage writes: Oh God, no! You're nearly two years out of date. It's almost as dated as smoking your own fish. Roasting your own coffee beans is not bad (though see previous letter), but I would recommend making your own tea-leaves or even curing your own tobacco.

Is it too late to be a cocktail snob? G. L. of Leeds.

Uncle Vintage writes: Are you serious? Where have you been? The cocktail craze has been replaced by the mineral water craze.

What about fungi? Y. E. of Herts.

Uncle Vintage writes: No food writer ever gives advice on fungi. It is always followed by a law-suit from the relatives of a dead reader.

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BOOKS

Existentialist at War

James Fenton on the formative war writing of Sartre

WAR DIARIES
Notebooks From a Phoney War
1939-1940
By Jean-Paul Sartre
Translated by Quentin Hoare
Verso, £14.95

We are given here, for the first time in English, the five remaining notebooks that Sartre wrote during 1939-40. A mystery surrounds the fate of the other nine - one assumes that they were lost or destroyed; but people have a habit of referring to them as if they might be somewhere concealed. Quentin Hoare, who is responsible for the idiosyncratic and generally convincing translation, speaks of the fate of these other nine notebooks as "surely one of the great intellectual losses of the kind in our century." It is hard to disagree. Whatever you value in Sartre, his philosophy, his art, or simply the historical fact of his existence and influence - the notebooks add substantially to his achievement.

They were written consciously for publication, albeit posthumously. And they were written by a man who had no doubt about two things - the stature of his own genius, and the importance of the period in which he was living. As far as the period is concerned, Sartre the diarist is not of great value as a witness of important events. We do not see cities fall or front lines move. We do not get a glimpse inside the Chancelleries of Europe or learn what the great politicians of the day were up to behind the scenes.

Quite the opposite of this, but no less absorbing, Sartre shows us what that moment was like from the point of view of the ordinary enlisted man. I was going to say the average man, but nobody he describes is average. Vividly present in their eccentricities and their philosophies of life, Sartre's companions are drawn exclusively from the lower ranks. To become a corporal in this world is to be in danger of giving yourself airs.

And yet of course Sartre himself is, in any but the military sense, of more than officer class. He refers at one point to a fantasy that he is a king of some select group of men. He is explicit about his own success, and it is this assurance which gives interest to everything he describes. He wouldn't have to look beyond his immediate horizon to find what is essential to the spirit of the period - he finds it in the company of the waitress and the village idiot, the travelling salesman,

the artist and the philosopher alike. His own job is of very little importance; he fills meteorological balloons with gas, sends them off, observes their speed and reports to his superiors of the direction and strength of the wind. No particular use seems to have been made of this information. But the uprooting of the philosopher from his former life, and the comparative idleness of his military existence, prove highly conducive to work. In the period of 1939-40 Sartre wrote an estimated million words, including notebooks, letters and a novel.

The key to this productivity is not simply the spare time he must have had. There is also a strong sense that the man knows himself to be at a particularly vital moment in his own development - as a philosopher, as a novelist, and as a witness of events. Perhaps (although he does not say this) he was spurred by the thought that he might well soon be killed. At all events, the notebooks have a way of telling everything, getting the whole lot down, which suggests that the prospect of death was a strong stimulant.

So in addition to philosophical speculations (many of which I may say are quite beyond my ken) we get accounts of how it was that Sartre came to his various points of view - how it was, for instance, that he came to read Heidegger. And there is a superb arrogance in his depiction of this event. You have to remember that although Sartre had a growing reputation as a philosopher he had not yet written any of his major works. He mentions that the crucial reading was a French translation of

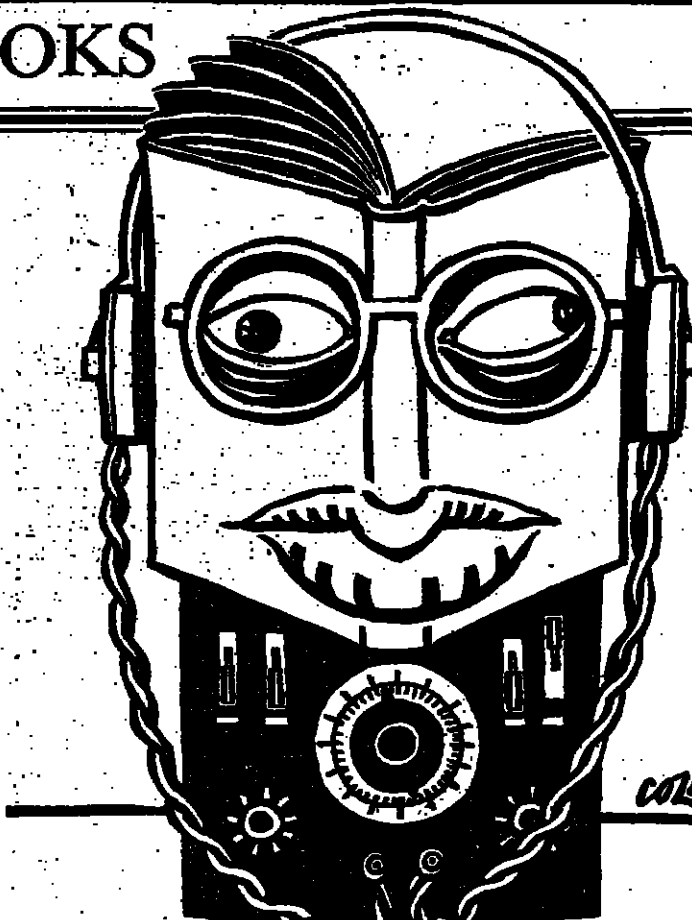
Heidegger, but in case the reader should think that this event was somehow accidental, Sartre shows that he himself had contributed to the intellectual atmosphere that had led to Heidegger's being published in

French (even though Sartre had not yet read properly or understood a word that the German philosopher had written).

The sense of his own historical importance came to the young Sartre at an early stage. He was attuned to prophecies of his own destiny, which he imagined in his childhood to be that of a great lover. He had been a good looking child, then he became very ugly; and there was a period at school in which he was forced to suffer for his ugliness, and to abase himself in order to earn the friendship or favours of the boys he most admired. Before this period of suffering he had lived in a world of women, attracting both children of his age (who became his "fiancées" and their female parents). During the period of his suffering he discovered how difficult it was both to make men admire you and to make women love you.

He found out how to command the admiration not merely of men but of a whole country, and he completely dispensed with male friendship, always turning cold, he says, when a man tried to become intimate. As for becoming the great lover - well, very few people have been more famous for their relationship than Sartre and de Beauvoir. His adult life resembled his childhood in this sense, he lured it over admiring women.

But to reach his position of greatness as a writer he had (one is not displeased to discover) to spend a long time in despair at ever achieving what he had promised himself.



But it is worth remembering when reading these notebooks, that this fulfilment was only a couple of years old when the war broke out. In December 1939 he wrote: "By virtue of the simple fact that I have always thought of creating a 'oeuvre' - in other words a series of works related to each other by common themes and all reflecting my personality - I have always had the whole future before me."

He seems to have written the notebooks in order to let us know, should he die, what the future would have been.

Sartre reached the age of 28 in 1933. A year later he was in Le Havre with de Beauvoir, sitting in a cafe and bemoaning the fact that nothing new could happen to them: their friendships and their style of life were fixed. There followed another period of intense unhappiness and even madness, before his fortunes turned. In 1937 *Nausea* was accepted for publication and "The Wall" appeared in a magazine. Sartre began to fulfil his promise.

But it is worth remembering when reading these notebooks, that this fulfilment was only a couple of years old when the war broke out. In December 1939 he wrote: "By virtue of the simple fact that I have always thought of creating a 'oeuvre' - in other words a series of works related to each other by common themes and all reflecting my personality - I have always had the whole future before me."

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Our only diffident Premier

John Campbell

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN
Volume 1: 1869-1929
By David Dilks
Cambridge, £20

Now David Dilks has undertaken, in a first massive instalment which takes him only up to 1929, to persuade us - of what? Still only, I'm afraid, that Chamberlain was a worthy and admirable man, the most progressive Minister of Health ever, and really wonderfully knowledgeable about flowers, have never been able to like him.

Cambridge and into Parliament to add fresh laurels to the family name by becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of 40. Neville was sent virtually straight from Rugby to spend his twenties in the Bahamas trying to grow sisal where sisal would not grow in a foolhardy and barely necessary attempt to bolster the family fortune. Returned home, he did not even become a Birmingham City Councillor till he was 42 (though he rose rapidly to be Lord Mayor), and did not enter national politics, very reluctantly, till he was nearly 50. He had little choice, however, after Lloyd George (on Austen's advice) had plucked him from local government and thrown him gratuitously into his second humiliation by appointing him, with no relevant experience or political support, to the impossible job of Director of National Service in the middle of the Great War, where he lasted just eight months. And yet, the orchid and the monocle apart, it is clear that Neville was far more Joe's son than Austen ever was.

Once in Government he quickly became the dominating personality in the Cabinets first of Bonar Law and then of Baldwin. But he did not think that it ought to be so easy. He

He grew up under the burden of a double inferiority complex, not merely in awe of his commanding father Joe, but in the shadow of his elder half-brother Austen, to whom he was grotesquely subordinated. Austen it was who was sent to

know he was not his father; he had been brought up to defer to his brother. He begged Baldwin not to send him to the Treasury in 1923, and gratefully went back to the Ministry of Health in 1924. Similarly in 1928 he implored Baldwin not to remove to the House of Lords the only rival who was thought to stand between him and the succession; he generously did not want to be Prime Minister. This extraordinary diffidence, unique in a politician who did actually get to the top - can only be explained by his upbringing.

Innocent of national politics until middle age, Chamberlain thought Prime Ministers should be men like his father - in consequence, loyal though he was, he was frequently shocked by Baldwin's lazy amateurism. But he could not easily commit the impiety of believing that he himself could fill the place his father had missed. Likewise he was painfully embarrassed to find himself in 1922-24 surpassing Austen, and did not know how to handle it.

This is not to say that he had a poor opinion of his own abilities. Professor Dilks relates Chamberlain's career largely - too much so - through his letters to his sisters Hilda and Ida, to whom he wrote some 80,000 words a year each. They are a catalogue of compliments and congratulations dutifully passed on, laced with withering dissection of his colleagues' inadequacies. But the more he despised them - and the word is not too strong - the more he seemed by association to despise himself as well, and the business of politics itself which he had never wanted to enter. In this curious combination of self-righteousness and self-disgust, a growing vanity superimposed upon an inferiority complex, we can glimpse the autocratic and deluded old man who finally and unhappily became Prime Minister. But there, I am being unfair. Why is it so hard to be nice about Neville?

Hitler's last blow parried

William Jackson

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE
The Definitive Account
By Charles B. MacDonald
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95

1984 has marked the 40th Anniversaries of the three decisive battles of the Second World War in the West: the final battle of Cassino in May, leading to the fall of Rome; the Normandy landings in June, and the defeat of von Rundstedt in the Ardennes in December.

The first two were Anglo-American victories; the third was almost entirely American. To the British public at the time it was an American disaster from which the US Army was rescued through the timely intervention of Field Marshal Montgomery. This was just not true. There was a major Allied intelligence and command failure for which the American soldiers paid a high price, but they successfully frustrated Hitler's last great effort to wrest stalemate, if not victory, from defeat. Charles MacDonald's book is a timely reminder for British readers that the Battle of the Bulge was an American victory in which the British played a very small part.

The American author, who fought as an infantry company commander in the battle and later became Deputy Chief of Staff of the US Army, has lived with the American, British, and German official records for many years. He has also had access to the previously secret ULTRA and MAGIC intercepts of Axis radio traffic. But what makes his book important is the use he has made of five years' meticulous interviews with survivors, civilian as well as military, on both sides of this grim winter's battle that involved a million men and resulted in 81,000 American, 1,400 British, and 100,000 German casualties.

MacDonald calls his book, *The Definitive Account*. This is a misnomer. It is a mosaic of the personal accounts and recorded actions of the commanders and men who actually fought the battle rather than of those who directed it. The outline of the higher level decision making and the overall pattern of events are sketched with a light touch to provide the framework. The details of the official histories are given colour, and yet the exaggeration, to which personal reminiscences are so often prone, is toned down by cross-reference to official records.

Three images stand out in MacDonald's mosaic: the extraordinary recovery made by the German Army after its disastrous defeats on both the Eastern and Western fronts during the summer of 1944; the completeness of the surprise inflicted upon the Allies by Von Rundstedt and his staff; and the equally remarkable resilience of the American Army, which rode the punch of some thirty German divisions and, in the end, triumphed in what Churchill described as "the greatest American battle of the war".

The ultimate victory belonged almost entirely to the American soldiers and their tactical commanders. MacDonald describes their failures as well as their successes objectively. Surprise always destabilizes, and withdrawal, however well conducted, is one of the most difficult operations of war. Incidents of panic were to be expected, but these were outweighed by the staunchness shown by the majority of the American troops. The proof of the pudding was in the successful elimination of "The Bulge" within a month of the initial assault despite the fiercest winter weather, which grounded the Allied Air Forces for much of the time.

A seriously comic diplomatic affair

FICTION

Gay Firth

SHORT OF GLORY

By Alan Judd
Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95

BAD GIRLS

By Mary Flanagan
Cape, £8.95

MACHINE DREAMS

By Jayne Anne Phillips
Faber, £8.95

MAIA

By Richard Adams
Viking, £12.95

"This is no time for facetiousness, Stubbs. You'll find, if you continue in the service, that some things are important and have to be treated as such."

Yes, Minister. Picking a pin-striped, subversively courteous path down the razor's edge between hilarity and hopelessness, Alan Judd's second novel stands comparison with the best this year. In theme and tone it will remind readers of the situation comedy whose bell of truth, tolling over the devices and desires of Whitehall, strikes as much despair as delight into addicted viewers.

Like Messrs Jay and Lynn, Mr Judd spots serious as well as comic conflict between necessary political action and "calm, bureaucratic implacability". The foundation stone here is the Foreign Office.

Patrick Stubbs is Our Man in Lower Africa: a Good Man, and a very young one; third secretary *en poste* at Battenburg, "a marvellous place for a bachelor". The plot is really neither here nor there. (It features a mysteriously vanished consul, and an eccentric undercover kidnap investigator, one Chasworth, late of Mr Judd's first novel via Dorland Yates.)

Emphatically here and there are coherent, wholly believable situations: British with Lower African, diplomatic with undiplomatic, men with women, black with white. Moral issues in shades of grey give quiet evidence that respect, freely and

Spreading the muck on British security

Robert Cecil

TOO SECRET TOO LONG

By Chapman Pincher
Sidgwick & Jackson, £10.95

The purpose of this book is to survey the failures of British security since the end of the war and ascribe most of them to the treachery of Roger Hollis, apart from those to which Blunt and others have already admitted. Each item in the mass of conflicting evidence is accepted or rejected according to whether it strengthens or weakens the conclusion Mr Pincher intends to impose upon the reader. This is no way to conduct a judicial review, nor is this what the author has set out to do. On the contrary, he has the greatest contempt for all official investigations and pronouncements, whether by ministers, civil servants or judges. Indeed he seems to be pursuing a vendetta not only against Hollis, but also against all those whom he holds responsible for the cover-up of treason and traitors.

There is no space to analyse all the evidence presented; all that can be done is to indicate how Mr Pincher handles it. He begins with the known fact that around 1930 Hollis met in Shanghai an American Commu-

nist, Agnes Smedley, who, like Hollis, was working as a journalist. Within a few pages this meeting has been transformed into "friendship" (p.18). We are then introduced to a friend of Smedley, code-named "Sonja", who was working for the Comintern in Shanghai. In no time at all "Sonja", too, has become a friend of Hollis and is assumed to have recruited him: Mr Pincher has assumed what he aimed to prove.

Early in 1941 "Sonja" turns up near near Bletchley, where the bulk of M15 has been located since the previous year. It is again assumed that she went there in order to milk Hollis, ignoring numerous other possible suspects at Bletchley, including one who was actually married to a communist. From this point it is downhill all the way with the decline of M15 accelerating, as Hollis rises to the post of Director-General. Mr Pincher convinces us that Hollis was an ineffective Director-General; it does not follow that he was in Soviet pay. The FCO has been much criticized for failing to foresee the invasion of the Falklands; there is no reason to conclude that any senior officials were taking Argentine money. Mr Pincher has read numerous memoirs of defectors and spies, such as Philby and "Sonja". He handles their evidence in the same way: items that help his thesis are accepted; those that conflict are dismissed as Soviet "disinformation".

The only evidence that is always tainted is that from British official sources. This prejudice is sometimes carried to extraordinary lengths, as when Mr Pincher, discussing the Profumo case, prefers the

an American who, living in London, shows a sharp ear for the tricks of well-to-do metropolitan speech.

Names like Adrian, Melissa, Miles, Rupert and Louise drop like marbles on stripped pine floors; but Mary Flanagan rolls them with skill, irony, and the kind of gritty style usually associated with "A View of Manhattan", her best, and blackest, story. "Time's up, Amarrilis. Time's up, Sheldon. Time's up, New York." Miss Flanagan is no bad writer.

Machine Dreams is indubitably American: a chronicle, over three generations, of an Appalachian family for whom the American Dream extends, in unbroken chains of sadness, disillusion and desolation, only to machines, cars, trucks, bulldozers, "flying machines" in Vietnam. The saga of Mitch, Jean and their two children, Danner and her younger brother Billy, is recorded in separate registers of reminiscence, correspondence and dreams.

Shifting her angles across the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, Jayne Anne Phillips creates an impressive weave of thickening circumstance: experiences remembered, told and retold until nostalgia becomes corrupt-

evidence of Christine Keeler to that of Lord Denning. At the risk of misquoting A. E. Housman it must be said that Mr Pincher uses his authorities much as a dog uses a lamp-post. Books of this kind raise in acute form the question whether they are written with the primary aim of cleansing the stable or merely that of spreading the muck around. That muck is flying round, it is denied. No specific allegation is

ing myth; summer heat as suffocating as the loneliness of small-town struggle to survive. War turns terrible twists on the maxim that the chance to make history is better than reflecting on it. Miss Phillips reflects, and reflects, and reflects.

So far as the eye can see, through the pages of *Shardik* (528), *The Plague Dogs* (480), *The Girl in a Swing* (400), *Maia* (1,056), which add up to, regrettably, not much and less art, Richard Adams has not written a work of fiction worth a critical damn since *Hazel-rah* left his burrow and his body on *Watership Down* and went through the primroses to the Great Owl's lair. The Sky. This is not particularly surprising, for many an author has not written even one good book. Mr Adams himself has declared that "I was brought up to despise your English *Littérature*. He's a scholastic bobby-soxer." What, ever, if anything, that may mean, it is particularly remarkable that, writing about human beings rather than rabbits, Mr Adams goes to pieces. Four legs good, two legs bad; and getting worse.

Some readers may perceive in *Maia* a visionary, allegorical world like J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, or Doris Lessing's *Canopus in Argos*. Others, in response to the burrowing through embarrassment to exasperation, will recognize that this is not a book to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force.

made against Sir Dick White, a Director-General of great ability and integrity, but there are constant references to his role in the recruitment of Hollis and the advancement of his career. Are we meant to draw deductions? If not, what is the purpose of this reiteration in a book that is already far too long and diffuse? For my part, I firmly believe that Mr Pincher's heart is in the right place; it is his head I worry about.

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POETRY

Robert Nye

E. E. Cummings was known to those who had only glanced at his typography as the most strenuously experimental of modern poets; to his friends, that is to those who read him, and could not help loving what they read, as perhaps the most conventional. What other serious poet of the twentieth century would have dared include in a late "selected" volume a poem that began:

little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower
and went on to picture the poet kissing the thing, hugging it, right, and then dancing round it, and couldn't help loving what they read, as perhaps the most conventional. What other serious poet of the twentieth century would have dared include in a late "selected" volume a poem that began:

of joy, even of idiotic delight, was always stronger than his sense of emotional decorum. Accordingly he was capable of writing both very good and very bad poems, but never a false poem; the reader is either delighted or embarrassed, never cheated. I know those who, while enjoying what might be called the Bronx Cummings, experience a preponderance of embarrassment when confronted with Cummings and his Christmas tree, or Cummings and his snowflakes, or Cummings and his "any darling", but for my part I like to read him whole simply because his happiness is so authentic that it makes me happy.

Only readers with similar appetites will want to buy *Essays: The Unpublished Poems of E. E. Cummings*, edited by George James Fennage and Richard S. Kennedy (Liveright, £7.95).

Those who can still associate poetry with the plain expression of deep feeling will value this posthumous addition to an authentic life-work.

"A dramatic, gory, personal story. biblical in cadence, Tolstoyan in mood. It speaks of the way all men and women feel and act in all wars, at all times, in all places." Richard Harris

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American Civil War, and of the destinies of real and
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American history.
HAMISH HAMILTON £9.95

THE TIMES DIARY

Bitov on Parade

As Kinross, Healey et al arrived in the Soviet Union yesterday, Oleg Bitov re-surfaced for the first time since his ludicrous claims of his kidnapping and torture by British intelligence. Bitov's re-emergence - clearly timed to prove he is still in the Kremlin's favour - came in the form of an article on American author Norman Mailer in the *Literaturnaya Gazeta*. Far from embarrassing the British guests with a repetition of his absurd claims, Bitov damned the West with faint praise by applauding Mailer's recent article in the US magazine *Parade*. Bitov lauded Mailer - who was writing about his recent Russian travels - for trying to understand the Soviet Union despite prejudices instilled by the bourgeois press over the past 40 years. Bitov, who has not been reinstated as the paper's foreign culture editor, may well have time to write on his own extensive travels to Scotland and Stratford in his beloved Toyota - still in the pound awaiting auction by the Met.

Action clip

Publishers Sidgwick and Jackson, who release Alan Hart's *Ararat: Terrorist or Peacemaker?* next month, are leaving nothing to chance. They have taken stringent security precautions at their Bloomsbury offices and yesterday morning - following reports of Israeli fury at the possibility of the PLO leader actually visiting Britain to promote the biography - a parcel screening machine was installed. The very first parcel put through it set off the alarms, and Scotland Yard's bomb squad sped to the scene. They needn't have worried: the offending item was a paper clip.

Bad review

Arthur Scargill chose to ignore two bomb warnings phoned in to Ramsgate's Granville Theatre as he spoke there on Tuesday night: such calls to his speaking venues are apparently commonplace nowadays. What the theatre management had not expected, however, was to find the building plagued with posters of Scargill stamped "KGB Approved" above the slogan "Traitor to the NUM". The theatre would prosecute if it knew who was responsible. Unfortunately the posters' sole attribution is to the "NUM Sack Scargill Committee".

Labour MP Sydney Bidwell was towed into the House of Commons by the police yesterday just in time for a meeting after his car broke down in Park Lane. The appointment? A select committee meeting on transport.

In seconds

Treasury adviser Michael Portillo, selected to fight the Southgate by-election for the Tories, has been given a second chance to win a seat despite disappointing results at the General Election. On that occasion, as Conservatives were swept back to Westminster with substantially increased majorities, Portillo's opponent, Jeff Rooker, increased his Labour majority from 491 to 7402. Even taking boundary changes into account this was a three per cent swing to Labour, but it does not seem to have damaged Portillo's standing in the party. Nor did the fall from grace of Cecil Parkinson, to whom Portillo was adviser, a Tory whip told Rooker in the Commons after the election: "We'll have him in here as quick as a flash."

BARRY FANTONI



"Of course, for a 10-day cruise, defectors only pay half"

Out to lunch

Now I know from where the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, gets all his laugh-a-minute lines. The other day Jeffrey Archer, the former Tory MP and bankrupt turned best-selling novelist, lured Sir Michael to one of the regular Archer lunches for the rich and famous. Sir Michael was placed opposite Billy Connolly, and I am told it was a magical meeting of minds. "Sir Michael's not a stuffy person, you know," said the Attorney General's secretary yesterday. The Big Yin is saying "now".

Backlash

West Germany's former chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who is now much in demand as a writer and a lecturer, was overheard complaining the other day to his former finance minister, Manfred Lahnstein, about the high taxes he has to pay on lecture fees. Schmidt asked what idiots had decreed the law that had given scientists and journalists substantial tax benefits. Replied Lahnstein: "That was us, Helmut."

PHS

As MPs prepare to debate foreign aid, James Pickett urges long-term action on Ethiopia and Carol Berger describes problems on the ground

Feed stomachs and win hearts

There is general agreement on the need to provide emergency relief to Ethiopia. Many would like longer-term preventive measures to be taken. These would require the restoration of a bilateral aid programme and the means to make this effective.

There are, of course, some who believe that all aid is harmful or ineffective, or who have reservations about helping a Marxist government. Complete agreement is hardly to be expected. Nevertheless if the British Government were willing to make a commitment to Ethiopian development that was adequate in scale, duration and detail, it would have an opportunity to play a leading part in the long-term attack on Ethiopian poverty.

To this end the Minister of Overseas Development should send a mission to Ethiopia to identify and agree a plan of action. The British Government should contribute substantially to the funding and execution of, say, a 10-year development programme. The detailed content and phasing of the programme would be determined by on-the-spot investigation and discussion. Priority should be given to agriculture, where returns are potentially higher than industry.

Agricultural development should cover both peasant and state

farming. The need in the former is for improved cultural practices and techniques, including the use of fertilizers. In the late 1960s and the early 1970s minimum agricultural package programmes strongly supported by Swedish aid had considerable success. Renewed British aid could build on this experience and enable the number of peasants affected to be greatly increased.

The state farms largely had their origin in successful commercial enterprises. Now that compensation is being paid to their former owners, the possibility of at least some of them being run as joint ventures with British firms could be explored. More efficient state farms could increase food supplies and improve the balance of payments.

The lack of high-level skills is a major constraint of Ethiopian development. There should therefore be a revival of technical cooperation awards through the British Council to enable young Ethiopians to come to the UK for advanced training, within British control.

British aid could increase the supply of foreign exchange. Hard currency can, however, buy guns as well as grain, so that the conditions on British aid have to be considered. These need require no change in Ethiopia's Marxist constitution and

need only be two: that Ethiopian propaganda against the United Kingdom and its friends should stop; and that economic policies should lead to development.

The latter would require considerable change in practice. Peasants are now organized in cooperatives, which could be useful as instruments of participation rather than control. All-out collectivization would not help since the success of the Ethiopian government must be to use improved techniques. Market forces should be allowed to operate in the purchase and distribution of surplus product.

If British aid were not to be abused, accountability would be necessary. This would require a permanent aid presence in Ethiopia and perhaps an Anglo-Ethiopian Aid Commission.

It is likely that the British conditions would be accepted. Provided the British Government is serious in intent and firm in negotiation, the answer is probably yes. The current famine threatens the power of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam. The 250,000-strong army, if not fed, could become restive to the point of explosion. Moreover, the soldiers are now mainly peasants from the famine-stricken areas, their absence being one of the causes of famine. The

urban population could also become seriously disaffected.

It may still be objected that an agreement would help sustain an unpalatable regime. Unless the British decided to refuse even humanitarian relief, however, they could hope neither to topple the regime nor simply to ignore it. It is better, therefore, to extract a sensible and humane price for an enlarged aid programme. If this can be done the Ethiopian government must become more palatable than at present; the reasons for this would not escape the Ethiopian people and the rest of Africa.

If Ethiopian domestic savings were 10 per cent of the gross domestic product, and British aid aimed at increasing these by 10 per cent, the annual cost would be about £38m, or some 6 per cent of UK net bilateral aid to all countries in 1983. The cost could be shared with other western countries. Sharing should not, however, disguise the strength of British historical relations with Ethiopia, nor weaken the generosity of vision and toughness of purpose that is needed if real hope is to be brought to the hungry people of Ethiopia.

The author is Professor of Development Studies at the University of Strathclyde.

Geoffrey Sim/David Hart

At arm's length and out of reach

If Ethiopia's famine crisis could be contained within the lens of a television camera, the happy conclusion to the story would appear to be at hand. In late October we saw the first graphic accounts of the wasted and dying, by the next week food supplies were shown arriving and, more recently, the before and after shots of famine survivors have been featured.

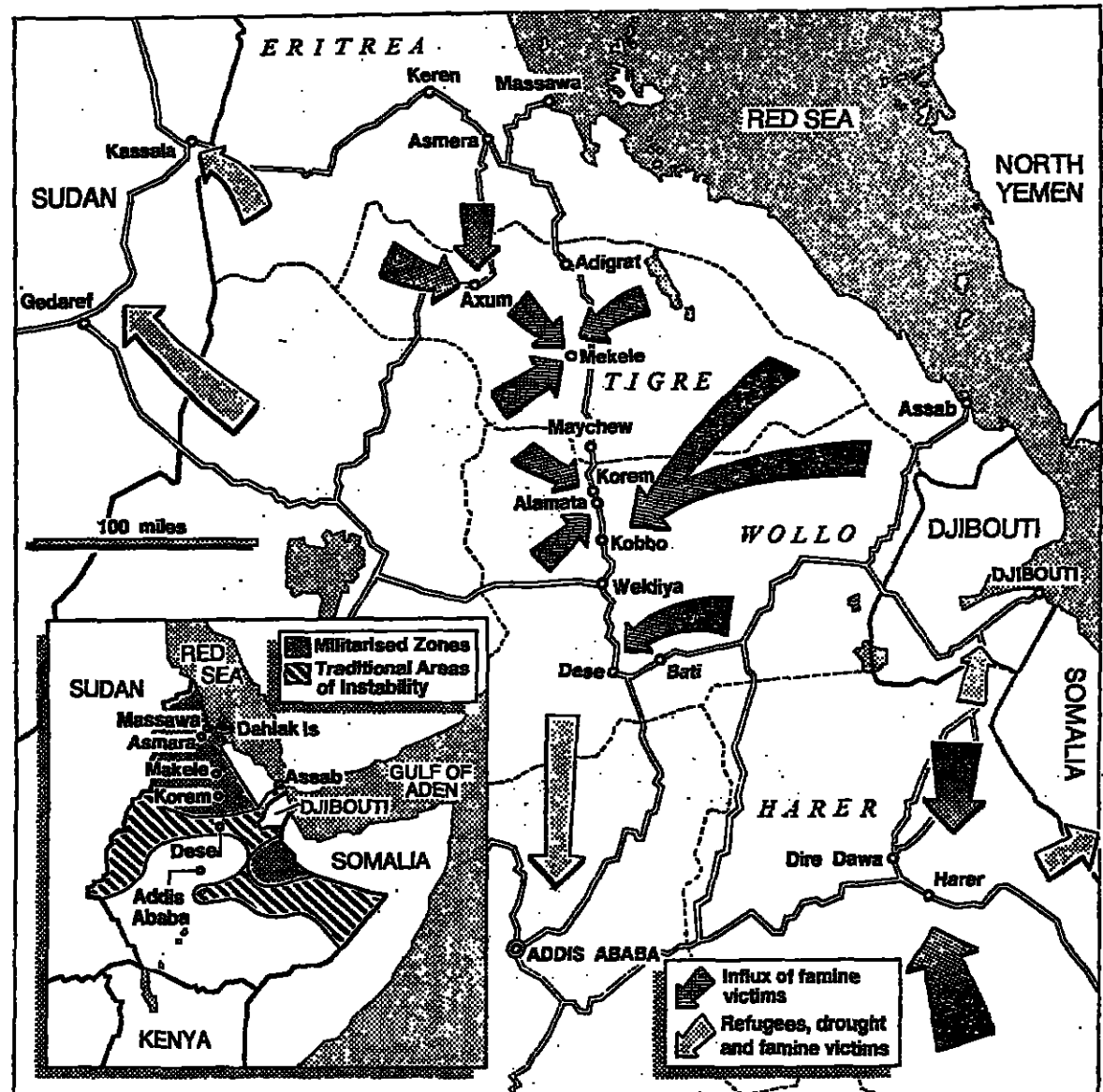
Regrettably, it is not the whole story. The camera, like virtually all foreigners in Ethiopia, is a captive audience of the Ethiopian government. Ethiopia's woes begin outside the main towns and off the main roads, where years of neglect and military campaigns have spawned well-armed rebel groups. Only the limited areas under government control can be shown to foreign audiences.

The Ethiopian government has resisted all official recognition of the protracted state of war in most of its famine-stricken north. Each year it engages in a new military offensive, each month its army is caught in skirmishes, but at all times the government maintains the facade of "representing" the interests of its 44 million people. The western nations and agencies which distribute aid within its borders do so with a formal observance of the official state of affairs, but some of them quietly take part in the transport of aid into rebel-held areas through neighbouring Sudan.

The roads which connect the extensive and diverse country of Ethiopia can scarcely be called a network - rather just one narrow and winding road linking the northern highlands with the arid south bordering Kenya, another winding down the Red Sea coast to the capital of Addis Ababa, and another stretching from Sudan in the west to Somalia in the east.

Outside the reach of these few roads, where there is an almost unbroken tradition of tribal and anti-government warfare, one of Africa's longest and least-recognized wars is taking place. Rebels of neighbouring nations have found sanctuary within the fluid borders, and arms from the Soviet Union, Libya and Israel are routinely offloaded into the nation's ports.

In the first week of November western donor governments and agencies took a major step towards coordinating famine relief efforts with the formation of an informal body. But without information



about the nation's resources, location of the most-affected areas and regional security, control over use of their aid is diminished.

The largest number of the famine victims come from the northern highlands of Eritrea, Tigre and Wollo. Up to two-thirds of the nation's 300,000-strong army is based there, along with more than 1,500 Soviet advisers, and the civilian population has paid a heavy price in casualties, displacement and stunted economic growth.

The main rebel groups operating within Ethiopia are the secessionist Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Of the three, the EPLF is the longest established. The OLF, although less organized, includes members from the nation's largest ethnic group totalling up to one third of all Ethiopians.

In all, there are at least 12 anti-government groups operating throughout the country. It remains the daunting task to move aid into the inaccessible and militarized

zones. In Wollo region, up to two-thirds of the countryside is considered outside government control and travel throughout the north is restricted by permits and curfews.

Several soldiers are known to have died in clashes with Tigran rebels north of Keren in the Wollo region in late August. Keren itself was this week reported to have been briefly in rebel hands. Last month saw the attack and capture of the town of Lalibela, further to the south, in which 120 soldiers and 80 civilians were killed.

The situation has prompted some observers to consider those beyond walking distance from the main towns as "lost". For those who do reach the towns, the search for food does not always end. Until early November Keren and towns to the south were filled with thousands of destitute refugees who had received no help.

One veteran aid worker illustrated the problem of competing forces. On a recent visit to the Alimata health centre he found the shelves emptied of all medical supplies. When he went to the area's military garrison

his search for the missing supplies ended. He noted, however, that only one year earlier the same health centre had been similarly stripped by guerrillas.

When food distribution increases, so do the numbers moving into the towns to receive supplies. At a distribution centre and clinic which opened recently at Bati, east of Desse, hundreds of people began arriving each day. Informed observers estimate that up to 22,000 refugees were moved out of Desse in the six months preceding food distribution at Bati.

Several hundred others from northern Wollo walked for more than 16 days to Addis Ababa in October. Within days of their arrival the government had moved them into the neighbouring region of Wallega. In an attempt to prevent large numbers from seeking food in the capital, Addis Ababa was cordoned off during the country's tenth anniversary celebrations in September. The same procedures have been carried out for the current OAU summit.

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Can bishops make the right move?

Paul Routledge asks whether church leaders can offer a solution to the miners' strike

Having aroused the Government's wrath by appearing to offer aid and comfort to the striking miners, the bishops yesterday sat down with leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers to discuss what they can do to end the bitter conflict in the coalfields.

The first meeting - there are likely to be several - was very much an opportunity to break the ice. The miners went to state their case to the Archbishop of York, and the church leaders listened. The bishops will now determine whether there is any serious scope for ecclesiastical intervention in the 37-week-old strike.

Both parties are rather shy about going public on their deliberations, and they have every reason to be circumspect. The National Coal Board, in the shape of its chief spokesman Mr Michael Eaton, has already written off the bishops' initiative as "a dead duck", and Tory party chairman Mr John Selwyn Gummer has as good as told them to mind their own business.

But it may be unwise to assume from those propaganda salvos that the bishops will fail, just as the conciliation service professionals and the TUC have failed. The miners' strike is not a routinely sordid battle over fatter pay packets. Rightly or wrongly, the strikers believe it is a crusade about jobs and the survival of mining communities; to that extent, it is a moral issue, and hence more susceptible to the

operation of the churches' social conscience.

The bishops have at least one factor on their side: they start from scratch. They do not have an entrenched position to defend, nor do they have any political face to lose. So they can afford to take a longer, more disinterested view.

The question then arises: what good can they do? The two sides are still very far apart, and the gap will not be easily bridged. There are, however, some aspects of the various draft settlements to which the bishops might usefully direct their energies.

The first is the colliery programme announced by Mr Ian MacGregor, the NCB chairman, on March 6. The board set itself a target of reducing capacity by four million tonnes in the current financial year. This was immediately interpreted by the NUM as meaning the shutdown of 20 pits with the loss of 20,000 jobs, an analysis that has not been denied by the NCB.

In their agreement with the pit deputies' union, the board accepted that "in the light of the loss of output which has occurred as a result of the dispute" and of market changes, the March 6 proposals would be "completely reconsidered".

A new set of objectives will be prepared for each area to reflect the production possibilities available at the time the dispute ends.

This formulation was originally declared to be "completely unacceptable" to the NUM because it does not amount to total withdrawal of the closure programme. The miners have now shifted the ground somewhat to a different form of words, arguing that the NCB "should not proceed with" the shutdown package.

In fact, it would be practically impossible to implement the board's original intentions and abide by the new colliery review procedure already agreed with the pit deputies and on offer to the NUM. Even if the miners were to go back to work tomorrow, and the NCB immediately announced the identity of the pits it wants to shut, the NUM could appeal all the proposed closures a procedure which could take months.

There is simply not enough time to carry out Mr MacGregor's desired reduction in capacity before the end of the financial year on March 31, 1985. If the MacGregor plan of March 6 is inoperable, what stands in the way of quietly shelving it? The main consideration must be loss of political face for the Government, and to a lesser extent for the NCB,

although the board has already all but conceded the point. Some short-lived disfigurement for ministers might be a small price to pay to end the costly dispute.

There is another argument in favour of such a move. If the board can work out some face-saving form of words to pull back from a closure programme that seems less and less relevant as the weeks tick by, the pressure will be on the NUM. In his (admittedly few) conciliatory moments the NUM president insists that it is only the pit shutdown plan that stands in the way of a return to work; if it is taken off the table altogether the men would surely feel that their stand had been vindicated.

There is, naturally, an element of risk in convincing "completely reconsider" to "not proceed with". Mr Scargill might just gobble it up, as he has all previous concessions, and move on to demand total surrender from the board. His Ramsgate speech two nights ago suggests the contrary. In it, he said: "This union is prepared to sit down and discuss the Plan for Coal and any other alternatives."

If his desistability turns out to be a sham, the board will have lost little by publicly accepting that circumstances now prevent it from implementing the March 6 programme. And the drift back to work could turn into a stampede if the miners lose faith at the prospect of an intransigent leadership which might never come to an agreement.

Ronald Butt

A middle way on shifting ground

The Earl of Stockton now has the status of a symbol in the Conservative Party. Since he has risen above the battles of politics into the realm of benign reminiscence, practising Tories who wish to call on the One Nation tradition of their party like to evoke him as their patron saint when they wish to say something critical about the current orthodoxy. It gives their observations an odour of historical respectability. But what is the One Nation tradition?

Its roots are in the picture of two nations, "the rich and the poor" which Disraeli painted in *Sybil*, between whom there was no contact but who were to be reconciled by the concern of a disinterested, and well-rooted aristocracy in the welfare of the poor.

After the last war, when Labour was in power, it was Disraeli's vision, more romantic than precise, which was the inspiration for the One Nation group, which was founded by a number of Tory MPs to formulate a distinctively Conservative approach to the welfare state. Since its founder members included such very different figures as Edward Heath, Iain Macleod, and Enoch Powell (with Keith Joseph as a later member) its approach could better be described as pragmatically progressive than as sharply theoretical, certainly in economic terms.

But when Mr Peter Walker took the One Nation theme, together with the *Middle Way* (the title of the Earl of Stockton's political book) as the text for his Harold Macmillan lecture to the Young Conservatives of Tuesday night he plainly meant to point to something much more concrete in economic terms.

Mr Walker had more in mind than Harold Macmillan's conviction that the essence of radical Toryism was to search for a correct balance between economic efficiency and social compassion. After all, Mrs Thatcher would agree with that. Likewise his reference to Harold Macmillan's insistence as prime minister that the "middle ground" was the only ground that Conservatives could occupy with honour, and his emphasis on Lord Stockton's life-long rejection of "dogma" was not the real point Mr Walker had to make.

His essential message lay in his reminder that Harold Macmillan had always in the 1930s refused to accept that the causes of unemployment were beyond the power of governments to solve, and his relation of this to the "spectre of high unemployment today". What Mr Walker was really telling his audience was that the policies for dealing with unemployment in the pre-war years are the ones that should be adopted by the government today.

Thus Mr Walker drew attention, as did Mrs Thatcher recently, to the 1944 (Keynesian) White Paper on employment. But whereas Mrs Thatcher's purpose was to remind the world that its Keynesian prescriptions had not been made regardless of the need for financial discipline, Mr Walker stressed its stated commitment to a high and stable level of employment. His purpose was plainly to say that Keynesian methods should be applied to unemployment now. He is the last self-confessed "Weir" in the Cabinet; he dislikes the govern-

ment's restrictive attitude to spending and wants it changed.

This he thinks is not dogma. Mr Thatcher (dogmatically?) thinks that stable employment is only to be found by the conquest of inflation. Mr Walker (undogmatically?) thinks jobs can be created by priming the economic pump with government spending and thinks the risk of inflation worth accepting.

He takes his justification from history. He asserts that the 1944 White Paper (a triumph for Macmillan's middle way) was the basis of a quarter of a century's postwar economic policy which saw the lowest rates of unemployment, the highest rates of growth and the lowest rates of inflation in our history. It is a description of the economic characteristics of the period that at least raises some questions in my mind, but let them pass. Where he is surely wrong is in giving no credit for all this to the exceptional circumstances of post-war economic rebuilding as distinct from Keynesianism.

He seems not to recognize that it was Keynesian over-borrowing at the first signs of rising unemployment - figures that led to the unproductive over-manning and inflation with which this government had to deal. Nor does he acknowledge that in the eight or so years before the war the economy was recovering and employment was rising on strictly non-Keynesian policies, very like those being practised today.

Mr Walker has been a good and intelligent minister who has not harassed his colleagues by pushing his economic views to the public in a provocative way. He has characterized the tactics of former "Weir" ministers now on the backbenches. That is why he has survived in the Cabinet. There is much of value in his lecture, particularly his prescriptions for the conditions for growth - the avoidance of protectionism against overseas challengers, the acceptance of technological change as no real threat to jobs, the spread of ownership and the value of industrial participation.

But he still plainly hankers after neo-Keynesian doctrines formulated in a period in which the menace was international slump (not as today) inflation. Surely to insist on them whatever the context must be dogma. Mr Walker also forgets how sick and tired the mass of people were with year after year of high inflation eroding the value of their pay packets as soon as they were earned, and the sense of social instability that this bred.

Of course, unemployment matters to them too, and they expect the Government to do everything possible to promote it. That must be the priority of the Government's thinking in the months ahead. But not at risk of inflation.

If the purpose of Mr Walker's Middle Way lecture is to suggest that the general shape of the Government's economic policy should be adjusted by reference to the Keynesian theories which Lord Stockton advocated in the Thirties and practised in the late Fifties, he needs to produce much more evidence to make his case. Treating "dogma" that was formulated in other circumstances as though it was the undogmatic answer to the different circumstances of today is no help at all.

A. N. Author

Mrs Sexby's soil: the plot thickens

Three of the mixed blessings of being A. N. Author are The Talk, The Interview and The Signing. They have in common the lure of celebrity and its attendant wealth. It is high time to make a comparative study of what these occasions promise and what they deliver.

First, The Talk. The theory is that you address a packed and attentive audience in one of the more modish provinces on the subject closest to your heart - your works (or, in my case, work). Intelligent questions follow. "Tell me, Mr Author, when you wrote *The Soul of Mrs Sexby*, published by Sucker and Windbag at the remarkably competitive price of £6.95, were you conscious of a Mannian deployment of the lunar leitmotif?"

The venerable broadsheet then devotes a column to you on its arts page and the local bookshop triples its stock. Sales soar to double figures. That, as I say, is the theory. Now for the practice. You turn up at something which calls itself an arts centre, but which looks remarkably like a youth club. Two boys are playing table tennis and swearing loudly. They glare at you as if you are the caretaker and carry on with what they were doing.

Upstairs in the "theatre" where you are to talk, the noise is clearly audible and will remain so throughout the evening. An audience of four very old women huddles in the back row as though scared of detection. One of them asks how you are going to manage the Scarlati without a piano. While you are pondering this one, another woman stands up to announce you.

During such addresses there are at least two statutory errors of fact or pronunciation. The title gets Freudianly mutated to *The Soul of Mrs Sexby* while your surname becomes "Other". A certain amount of dozing off takes place (if not by you, then by the audience) during your conclusions on style and diction. Do not lose heart: remember that Beryl Bainbridge was once asked whether she had brought her drum kit with her.

Next comes The Interview. Again we will take the theory first. A suitably fawning middle person comes round with a clipboard and

camera crew and sets you against the backdrop of your workplace - book-lined walls, tasteful portraits, quietly disciplined children coming and going with mugs of cocoa for the good provider. The interview will be followed by a studio discussion with Bradbury Bragg chairing and Malcolm Bradbury and Hermione Lee opining. It will all be screened at peak time, denting the ratings of the sitcom on the other channel.

Bragg: "Malcolm Bradbury, how would you assess the achievement of A. N. Author?"

Bradbury: "I think it is becoming clear that his contribution to the genre of the suburban novel can be spoken of in the same breath as William Cooper's provincialism of the early Fifties."

Bragg: "Hermione Lee?" Lee: "Quite. He has also brought off an extraordinary act of transgender ventriloquism in his portrait of Mrs Sexby herself."

The practice is rather different. Three minutes of embarrassing garbage spill from the small-hour radios of drunks in bed-sits and routes at car wheels. The exchange performs its function of holding the phone-in away from the ads, or the ads away from the music. You wait up to hear the wretched item - a mistake you will never repeat.

Interviewer: "A. N. Author, what made you want to write your charming little collection of gardening stories, *The Soil of Mrs Sexby*?"

Author: "Nothing that I can put my finger on, really."

Interviewer: "That's lovely. And now a great track from Neil Diamond's new album."

And so to the Signing, on which I am hardly an expert, having done but two (copies, that is - one for my wife and one of my mother). Here I cite the experience of a friend who was invited to do a session at his local bookshop.

Seated at the table with his pen poised, he was mistaken for an attendant and harrassed on the poor selection of Christmas cards. Only one reader (his mother as it happened) queued for his signature. This was fortunate in a way, since that was precisely the number of copies in stock. The cloak of A. N. Onymity can be a heavy garment.

THE ARTS

Dance Company choreographed all too anonymously

London
Contemporary
Sadler's Wells

When Robin Howard and Robert Cohan started London Contemporary Dance Theatre in the 1970s, they declared an aim of planting a root from Martha Graham's American stock in the hope that something distinctively English would grow from it in the new soil. Looking at the opening programme of their Sadler's Wells season on Tuesday, I could say that they have succeeded, but at a cost.

There were three works, one each by Cohan, his co-director Siobhan Davies, and former company member Tom Jobe. Cohan's *Skylark*, new to London, shows strong traces of the Graham movement vocabulary but could never actually be mistaken for one of her works. Davies has found her own way of moving influenced by some of Graham's successors; Jobe has staged a mishmash of disco-dancing, phobias and showbiz swag. One at aerobic speed. None of this, unfortunately, had anything of the dramatic intensity in the one hand, or the exultant lyricism on the other, that had London audiences (and especially London

dancers) at Graham's feet in her historic 1963 season. Davies's *New Galileo* came closest to matching that standard: her rituals tend to be even more arcane than Graham's, but her movement fascinates, although at a less adventurous level. Davies also has the advantage, in this work, of a first-rate score. John Adams's *Phrygian Gates*, a piano solo lasting almost half an hour and played with splendid nuance and clarity by Eleanor Alberga. She is both pianist and composer of *Clouds*, which is written for piano and string quartet, runs just over half an hour and provides the accompaniment of Cohan's *Skylark*. This music has less character and its repetitions seem at first hearing more amorphous, less effective. But Cohan's choreography overlays it with a wash of movement rather than growing from it as Davies's does. *Skylark* is a gimmicky piece, not least in its designs by Norberto Chiesa. The main feature of the setting is a large frame around all four edges of the stage, lifted at intervals to take it from floor level upwards, and down again at the very end. For much of the time the front bar was at a height exactly calculated to block off all sight of the dancers' heads from my

stalls seat and presumably those of many others. The dancers start off wearing what looks like curious sporting gear, and subsequently keep parading on stage with different layers of ragged and bizarre decoration added, including at one point a red ribbon most curiously placed on Patrick Harding-Irmer's lower abdomen. He has the dominant role among the cast of 12, although at first they all lie on their backs, waving their legs about. Later the men start jumping around and the women undertake an almost prayerful passage. Harding-Irmer gets a brief solo, a trio with Anna Frankenhäuser and Charlotte Kirkpatrick, some interference by first one of and then all the men (this bit looks more like mudlarks than skylarks) and the stage to himself for some final poses. His strength, grace and personality enable him to suggest an aspiring, upwardly yearning nature that put me in mind of Lila's leopards. Every one else danced well but the choreography treats them too anonymously to be deeply satisfying. I find myself once more admiring the quality of the company and wishing desperately for someone to show them off to full advantage.

John Percival



Strength and grace: Patrick Harding-Irmer with Charlotte Kirkpatrick in *Skylark*

HappyDays Donna Warehouse

Ambiguous as Beckett's masterpiece may be, I never thought to see it presented in an "appraisal of the games played to make the strains of a marriage bearable". And if you think that is only the Shared Experience bandwagon (along with the claim that Clare Davidson's revival is the first to be directed by a woman), up goes the tell-tale curtain to reveal poor Winnie clotted to the waist in

what could either be an outsize quilt or a hairy blanchance. The face and torso emerging from this marital swamp belong to Darlene Johnson, whose twisted mouth and restless fingers convey an insistent sense of ungratified desire. Of necessity she faces the house; but everything she says is designed for the unseen Willie to overhear, and the play promptly starts shrinking into a terminal domestic row. Winnie's purpose, in every previous performance I have seen, is to get through the day with the help of her fast vanishing supply of time-kill-

ers, among which Willie ranks along with the contents of her bag and her store of half-forgotten poems. Her success depends on strategy and careful rationing while stocks last. The first casualty in this production is the sense of strategy. When Miss Johnson peers at her toothbrush, trying to make out the lettering first with her spectacles, then with a magnifying glass, she is not spinning out the time until nightfall but putting on a sly little routine for Willie's benefit; and likewise the "formation" episode over which they have a joint guffaw.

The second casualty is the sense of character. Winnie can be a down-to-earth person only fleetingly conscious of her intolerable plight, or a super-civilized intelligence holding despair at bay through invincible powers of style. If, as here, she dwindles simply into a neglected wife, the individual character disappears together with its role as a universal victim of the Almighty's dirty tricks. The one advantage of this approach comes at the end when Winnie, after so many solicitously undemanding words to her unfeeling spouse, falls on him with venomous derision when he

finally approaches her in the likeness of a faultlessly attired bridegroom. You can well understand why Willie (Richard Wilding) has spent the rest of the play hiding out of her reach down a hole. Whether or not Miss Johnson and her director intended this resoundingly anti-feminist climax, it is a heavy price to pay for a production which doubly sabotages the play by vulgarizing it and substituting the cliché of marital bondage for Beckett's metaphor of being buried alive.

Irving Wardle

Theatre

Concerts

LSO/Boulez Barbican

Fifteen years ago Pierre Boulez conducted a marvelous series with the London Symphony Orchestra that, in optimistic moments, I still like to think did some permanent value in house-training the Second Viennese School for London audiences. But until Tuesday night he had not been back. His work was all with the BBC Symphony, and it was with typical BBCSO programme hat he made his return: perhaps an ill-advised choice if it invited one to make comparisons.

LPO/Haitink Festival Hall

The Elgar anniversary year has produced two unfortunate accounts of his Violin Concerto, by Ida Haendel and Oscar Shumsky; this was potentially a third, from one of the finest violinists of the young generation. But Izbak Perlman's account of it on Tuesday, for all its supreme brilliance in many respects, sublimely failed — for me at least — to work its magic. The soul that Elgar put was enshrined in his Concerto is as elusive as the meaning of the

Barbican remains an impossible place in which to achieve a real orchestral blend, and an impossible place in which to make a pianissimo: the effect of closeness makes everything sound as if it had been recorded by CBS in the 1960s, nonchalantly destroying all the best efforts of two such master orchestras as Berg and Stravinsky. In Berg's Violin Concerto I have never heard so much saxophone or so much bass-less skimming sonority. On the positive side this brought out links with *Lulu*, and at times made the work seem to be thinking along lines that were trying to work themselves into the opera's third act. But the fabric of the piece was too much distressed. There was rage and

five dots in the composer's inscription: it is not a work that yields up its secrets easily. Perlman, for whom no technical feat seems to pose any problem at all, had almost too easy a time: the command and fluency in the tempestuous passage-work of the first and last movements was astonishing, but the notes did not signify very much. The agitation of the pages that precede the second subject's reappearance *grandioso* at the end of the first movement should be disturbing, here they were merely exciting. The chromatic double-stopings in

coarseness in the sound, and Pinchas Zukerman, who astonishingly was playing this concerto for the first time, was too much the cool spectator at the scene and not the angel held in an orchestral halo. More resonance, and indeed better playing, was also needed for Stravinsky's Symphonies of Wind Instruments. As usual, Boulez preferred the original 1920 edition, and if an orchestra has gone to the bother of assembling the instruments for that version it seems unduly modest not to make some mention of the fact: the implication of the programme note was rather that the 1947 edition was to be used. However, the point is not a crucial one if the music's severe edges are going to be smudged.

the finale should wrench the soul; here they were just well-placed, cautiously tuned. Indeed there was a good deal of caution around, as if both Perlman and Bernard Haitink, who conducted the London Philharmonic Orchestra, were feeling their way into the piece. Haitink is devoting quite some time to exploring British music these days — his new recording of Elgar's Second Symphony has been highly praised, and the first half of this concert included Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis and a magnificently convinced, hard-driven account of Britten's uneven

In the complete *Firebird* Boulez tried to gain some advantage from the hall by having bits of the magic carillon music come from backstage; by then, though, we were much too far into the work for this performance to be salvaged. There were nice touches from solo woodwind and percussion, but little sense of how the golden threads of the score weave together, which may be why Boulez took the fast movements at a fair lick: rhythmic dynamism would have to compensate for a lack of richness and integrity in the texture. And sometimes it did. But one hopes for better things at next week's concert.

Paul Griffiths

Sinfonia da Requiem. But in the Concerto he was excessively careful, and quite often missed Perlman's sudden *rubati* and speedings-up. It was obvious that Perlman had made an effort to cultivate an "Elgarian" sound, but that just showed how difficult it is to make *portamenti* and *glissandi* sound natural these days: Perlman's swoops sounded too sentimental, and his virtuosos double-stopings too like Paganini. It was a sense of style that was missing, and there was also, if I heard right, a swingeing cut in the finale.

Nicholas Kenyon

Lecture

Alfred Brendel University Concert Hall, Cambridge

The eighth annual Darwin Lecture enlightened invited a pianist, Brendel, no less, on "Does classical music have to be entirely serious?" Inevitably, it was a bewitching hour with a delightful man. But the subject, so treacherous, also drew his skill in manoeuvring between a mere feast of lollipops and a professional exegesis of fun. Humorous, he observed, are notoriously unfunny. Even Schubert said he knew no funny music. But for Dr Brendel the Viennese classics (and twentieth-century pieces such as Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelles aventures*) provide the "most convincingly comical absolute music" because the Enlightenment's values of reason and sense provide an orderly context in which disorder can tellingly frolic.

Haydn and Beethoven were his richest fields: Mozart's *Musical Joke*, a distraction, of course, after his father's death, passed with a rather regretful reference to its unkind catalogue of blunders. So, sitting gravely at the keyboard, Brendel took a typical Haydn squib, the finale from the late Sonata in C (Hoboken 50), and expounded its brilliantly contrived illogicalities: aborted phrases, inconclusive tritons, the intrusive "wrong" B major chord opening up horrendous vistas. Even the allowed anarchy of a cadenza, as he showed, was pushed to outrageous lengths in Beethoven's First Piano Con-

certo. Dr Brendel's grey eyes popped with Beethoven-like outrage at each false ending to the long "alternative" first-movement cadenza, wittily ending in that pianissimo chord (enough to catch even Beethoven on the hop, Denis Matthews once said) for which he offered amusing verbal translations. Happily, he went on to that underrated locus classicus of Beethoven wit, the Op 31 No 1 Sonata in G, not only the skittish finale (of which he remarked that any performer failing to make the audience laugh had either miscalculated or must be playing in Italy, Spain or the Australian bush), but the first movement, whose romping second subject sent an irresistible wave of mirth round the audience. Rather shockingly, to my mind, he also sees its slow movement as "a parody of early Beethoven as produced by Rossini", or of operatic or balletic star turns. But then humour is subjective; he finds little in minor-key Beethoven, but I wonder where one draws the line between anger and jocularity in, say, the scherzos of the Op 74 Quartet or the Op 96 Violin Sonata.

Even the Diabelli Variations, according to Schindler, were a feast of humour. And, alongside Variation 22's perversion of Mozart and Variation 25's German dance that loses a bar amidships, he demonstrated Diabelli's theme as merely a minuet with waltz pretensions, which Beethoven's last minuet variation exposed with the tenderest teasing.

Anthony Masters

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Television The enchanted land

The Box of Delights (BBC 1) may well be one of those children's programmes which become a "cult" for adults, a great many of the latter having read John Masfield's original some years before; certainly last night's programme created a sense of mystery and wonder from the beginning, and these are qualities not dependent on any particular age. Children's television, however, offers actors the opportunity to go "over the top" in an almost Dickensian fashion and the production itself (which cost a great deal of money) emphasized the grandiloquent and awesome aspects of the narrative. At once we entered an enchanted country, which was as small as the screen and as large as the world.

It was altogether a very successful first episode, displaying those effects which television always seems to contrive best — combining realism with fantasy, childish narrative and adult preoccupations, naturalistic acting and electronic animation. As a result, it can hardly fail to be a powerful success. And a last word about the hero: Devin Stanfield, as Kay Harker, was the most natural and least irritating actor seen on television for some time.

Bookmark (BBC 2) continued

The Killing Fields, opening here tomorrow, seeks the truth behind an appalling mythology: Bryan Appleyard meets its director, Ronald Joffé (right)



Heroism for today

South-east Asia these days has an artistic as well as a political and geographic reality. The imagination of the West has been filled with images of helicopters, jungles and casual mass slaughter as potent as any that remain from the Second World War. The Americans, of course, have been the most profoundly scarred and have produced the most radical artistic reactions. With *The Deer Hunter* the Vietnam War was seen as a massive and nightmarish externalization of an inner social wound. With *Apocalypse Now* it became the image of the collapse of the whole of western culture.

Both were films on an heroic scale and both assumed a kind of appalled helplessness before the scale of the catastrophe. Now this week comes *The Killing Fields*, a British film directed by Ronald Joffé and produced by David Puttnam, which attempts the difficult — and probably impossible — task of seeing the reality that lay behind the politics and cinematic and television mythology.

It does so by using the story of the *New York Times* correspondent in Cambodia, Sydney Schanberg, and his relationship with his Cambodian assistant Dith Pran. Puttnam first showed Joffé the script, based on Schanberg's article "The Death and Life of Dith Pran" — in 1982 and subsequently asked him to direct the film. It was Joffé's first feature. He had previously worked in theatre and television directing *Spongers*, *Tis Pity She's a Whore* and *United Kingdom*. It was an immense task. Although the film is not huge — it cost \$15m — it involved 13 weeks of shooting in Thailand, and massive and elaborate research by Joffé, who admits he came to the project in a state of almost complete ignorance about Cambodia.

"Our Britishness gave us an opening", says Joffé. "It is very difficult for the Americans to be comfortable with that whole South-east Asian experience. For us it is actually much easier to achieve a certain kind of compassion. The Americans now have a choice — they can lose the whole thing in a wave of jingoism, they can ignore it as just a hiccup in history, or they can come to terms with it. They can only do the last if they can exercise a certain amount of compassion about their own involvement."

For Joffé there were two key elements in the story which allowed this film to take a step back from the psychotic fascination with the period that has become all-pervasive. The first is the character of Pran, whose story represents a good deal more than half of the film. For Joffé this prevents the South-east Asians from simply becoming "wallpaper" for the working out of American neuroses and reveals them as complete human beings.

Second, Joffé detects both in Pran and Schanberg a new type of heroism. "A moving and elegant thing about this story is the way it shows a heroism of the Eighties. Pran's ability to survive, to find his way through and round

obstacles like water, is truly heroic — there is always something preserved in him. He never gave in to a situation and yet he was always able to show care for other people. "Sydney's heroism lay in his act of compassion and contrition. And America is a country capable of great acts of compassion. If you were able to take Sydney as an analogy for America's involvement you can see how all that enormous power and technology and the sense that America could bend the world to its will was shown to be a weakness and to have made them vulnerable."

Clearly Joffé and Puttnam's contribution has been to bring to the story a specific brand of English humanism, a warm liberalism in contrast to the hypnotized stares of the American movie-makers. It is an approach Joffé compares to that of George Orwell: "There's something very Orwellian behind this film — the concept of decency, the difficulty of being decent as a person or the greater difficulty of being decent as a nation, or the even greater difficulty of being decent as a very big nation."

Walking this particular tight-rope meant Joffé had to remove the attacking of easy targets which he felt were present in Bruce Robinson's original script. He also went to some lengths to strip out the anti-Americanisms which inevitably colour any consideration of South-east Asia. He points out that, although American bombing clearly boosted the power of the Khmer Rouge, the Americans had no part in the murderous ideology which the Pol Pot regime proceeded to implement. For the clearly left-wing maker of *United Kingdom* and *Spongers* it required a certain honesty to reveal the potential for distortion that lay behind his own beliefs.

The organic truth of *The Killing Fields* lies in the Schanberg-Pran relationship. And it was the final reconciliation which provided Joffé with one of his major problems. It is, for a start, almost too good to be true; no fictional work would ever dare to go for such a fairy-tale ending. And Joffé appears to have loaded the dice against himself by playing John Lennon's "Imagine" on the soundtrack.

His point is that the Lennon song is placed in an overwhelmingly ironic context, its yearning for no money and no religion is chillingly close to the yearnings of the Khmer Rouge. And meanwhile the blank faces of the refugees who watch Pran and Schanberg fall into each other's arms are Joffé's way of saying their reunion does nothing to efface the memory of Cambodia.

"I knew there was a danger of seeming to say these guys are all right so everything's all right. But at the same time you could not destroy the power of their meeting. There is an immense amount to be optimistic about in the world and an immense amount to be distraught about. I don't think the film says it's all okay but one of the reasons it's a bit okay is that it worked for them."

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Currys set to fall to hungry Dixons

Verbally the Currys - Dixons bid battle has been wonderfully heated. After eight weeks of public bickering, both sides are still insulting each other in public. This week, Dixons attacked Currys' "desperate" management, while Currys described Dixons as "disingenuous". Presumably such exchanges are commonplace at retailing get-togethers.

The Dixons bid, now worth £240 million, has generated two defences, a mountain of press releases and circulars, one video, and between £5 million and £10 million in merchant bankers' fees. The offer closes at 3pm tomorrow afternoon, when shareholders, including the powerful Curry family, must make up their minds.

Whatever the true merits of Currys' proposed capital reconstruction, with its promise of a 150p capital distribution, it has served to crystallize the issues. Effectively, two management teams with different retailing formulae are now bidding for a store of assets which include about 500 High Street shops.

The Dixons plans are straightforward. It wants to run Currys, and Bridges, as separate retail chains, giving both the treatment which has changed Dixons itself into an instantly recognizable retailing concept. Dixons now ranks with Burtons, Habitat, Hepworth and Harris Queensway as a group which has carved out a large specialist niche in British retailing. It is plainly eager to expand further. The management team sounds hungry. Should the deal go through, its test for growth will be fully tested by the work of welding a group with pro forma sales of about £750 million into a coherent entity.

It is easy to forget that some years ago Burtons was a joke among the modern breed of retailers. It has been regenerated. The existing Currys management is planning a similar comeback. Selling space should rise by 40 per cent over the next two years. The stores are being refurbished. With a range of mixed electrical stores, supermarkets, edge of town traders, and specialty shops, Currys possesses a broad enough portfolio to tap consumer spending on almost every level.

At this point, a certain fuzziness starts creeping in. Any scheme like the proposed capital repayment, reads like a sudden-act of corporate cannibalism by a fifth generation retailing family many of whom have lost their misanthropic zeal. It is easy to argue that the 150p offer is designed more to placate some members of the Curry family, possibly at the expense of other shareholders and the company's long-term future. But what is the Curry family stake? Thirty per cent or 40 per cent? It is hard to establish what the precise percentage is.

Supporting either management entails taking some risk. On balance, the Dixons case seems more straightforward, more the outcome of a classical development programme, less defensive, and ultimately more exciting. That is perhaps why the Dixons share price, up 17p yesterday to 39p, has risen throughout the bid, indicating the market's explicit support for the Dixons management team and belief in a Dixons victory.

The Dixons offer, worth in paper and cash 511p per share, should therefore be accepted. But spare a thought for the "old" Currys, a decent and honest business. The Dixons timing has been good. Another 18 months or so, and a revamped Currys might have been unbeatable.

Another blow for the small trader

It is easy, because Sunday trading is an emotive subject, to expect somehow that the face of the high street and the fortunes of the companies trading in it will never be the same again if the Auld Committee's recommendations on trading hours are finally reflected in new laws.

It may not work out that way although it is always hard to judge how changes of this nature might alter radically the life style of consumers and their spending habits.

The clear winners in the Sunday trading

switch will be those retailers in clustered developments which will be able to offer an enjoyable trip out from home, typically the modern shopping malls and especially the edge-of-town developments. But some city centres could offer the same thing.

So, as the Institute of Fiscal Studies indicates in its economic analysis which is part of the Auld report, current retailing shifts are likely to be speeded up. That means the big multiple chains are likely to benefit faster at the expense of the smaller independents.

One warning note struck by IFS is that retail costs because of Sunday opening - with wage costs particularly expected to rise - could in the short term go up 10 per cent on the most pessimistic view. Given competition that could hit profit margins even though the actual rise is expected to be less than that.

Medium-term costs are seen by IFS as likely to be up by 1.8 per cent within gross margins which average 28 per cent.

But in the longer term the IFS expects these trends to reverse with restored margins and more efficient trading. Overall costs are seen as possibly being 2 per cent lower eventually than they would otherwise be. In other words the survivors will benefit.

It looks as if the sectors to gain are those where consumers may react to having more time to shop around. That is good for DIY, furniture and other home items like domestic electrical appliances, televisions and electronic goods. More research for IFS suggested 41 per cent of full-time workers would buy clothing on Sundays. Toiletries and stationery were also high on the list.

Multiple grocers which also offer substantial ranges of non-food goods appear likely to benefit more from Sunday opening because it seems unlikely that grocery shopping, widely regarded as a chore, will substantially shift to Sundays from the present pattern of Friday and early Saturday shopping.

If as the IFS suggests 7 per cent of retail sales shifts to Sunday, the fascinating question is how this might give the shops a bigger slice of the Sunday pound.

Exchange preserves its independence

At first glance the revised rules governing the financial information required before a company may be granted a listing for its shares takes from the Stock Exchange authorities a large degree of discretion. The Yellow Book, as the compendium of rules is known, has had to incorporate three EEC directives detailing minimum listing requirements and responsibilities. The debate on how this was to be done started about four years ago, has been more concentrated in the past nine months and comes into effect on January 1, next year.

Despite Stock Exchange protests that its hands have been tied further by the legalities and murmurings from others of one more nail in the self regulatory coffin, the Stock Exchange has in fact preserved much of its capacity for independent thought.

When the directives were first discussed, it was thought that the Yellow Book would itself have to be recast in statute, with all its rules backed by law and the exchange shorn of quick-acting self-regulatory methods of monitoring the market. This has not happened.

Although much of the Yellow Book has statutory backing, the changes relate to minimum requirements. These are overlaid by the Stock Exchange's own more rigorous requirements, which can still be amended without going through some arduous parliamentary process.

The one thing the Stock Exchange will give up is the last word on whether a company may or may not gain a listing. Companies refused by the Stock Exchange may take it to a court which would decide whether the Exchange has given careful consideration to the rules at every stage. Officials say that this could have happened in the past.

Barratt considers legal action in row over TV criticism

By Jeremy Warner

Barratt Developments, the housebuilding company, is considering taking legal action against Granada Television for two programmes which have helped to damage its commercially and knock hundreds of millions off its stock market value.

Sir Lawrie Barratt, the company's chairman said after the annual shareholders' meeting in London yesterday that the group had not yet ruled out the possibility of legal action over the two *World in Action* programmes.

The first programme, screened in 1983, criticized the company's use of timber-frame building methods while the second made claims about first-time buyers. This programme was screened in June.

Sir Lawrie was strongly



Sir Lawrie: under fire at shareholders' meeting

criticized by shareholders at the meeting for the severe setback in the company's stock market value and trading fortunes since the programmes were screened. The mood of the meeting was in sharp contrast to previous

years when Sir Lawrie was congratulated for an impressive record of profits and sales growth.

One small shareholder, Mr John Cheery, launched a scathing attack claiming that Sir Lawrie had failed to repudiate adequately the *World in Action* report on timber-framed houses. "Shareholders have lost £300m in a year and you have done nothing about it," Sir Lawrie was told.

Sir Lawrie had more bad news for the 200 shareholders who attended the meeting. Trading results for the half year to the end of December are expected to be disappointing, he said.

However, he went on to indicate that with the action taken so far and the reduction in mortgage rates announced this month, the group looked forward to an improvement in

the second six months of the year.

Shareholders were told that the housing market in Britain had been difficult since July when interest rates rose. The group is also continuing its programme of rationalization.

On the stock market yesterday, Barratt's shares shed 2p to 86p on Sir Lawrie's statement. At one stage this year the shares stood at 185p.

Barratt is barred from taking legal action against Granada until the outcome of its complaints to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission over the programme is known. Sir Lawrie said he expected the BBC to make a statement within the next few months.

After the meeting Sir Lawrie said that he was "extremely concerned at the loss that his shareholders have suffered."

Showdown at Fraser

A showdown between the directors of the House of Fraser looks set to take place at a board meeting of this stores group in Glasgow today. The majority of the board has already sought the resignation of the two representatives of Lohrie and is prepared to call a special meeting to remove them. Lohrie has yet to answer to Fraser.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1188.1 up 9.0 (High: 1182.8; Low: 1182.8)
 FT Index: 918.7 up 5.9
 FT All Shares: 82.62 down 0.42
 FT All Shares N/A
 Bargains: 22.40
 Dated: 11.85
 Index: 105.2 up 0.13
 New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1189.48 down 3.63
 Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,249.68 down 7.29
 Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1084.35 up 11.83
 Amsterdam: 175.0 up 4.6
 Sydney: AO Index 774.2 up 1.6

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling Index 75.1 down 0.9 (range 75.9-75.1)
 \$1.2285 down 1.45 cents
 DM 3.7050 down 0.0295
 FF 11.3525 down 0.0725
 Yen 301.50 down 3.0
 Dollar Index 140.9 up 0.3
 DM 3.0175 up 0.0083
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.2290
 Dollar DM 3.0090
 INTERNATIONAL
 ECU 20.800819
 SDR 20.803576

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rates 10-9%
 Finance houses base rate 11
 Discount market loans week fixer 9%
 3 month interbank 9%
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 99 3/4-97 1/2
 3 month DM 5%
 3 month FF 11 1/2-11%
 US rates:
 Bank prime rate 11.75
 Fed funds 10 1/2-10 3/4
 Treasury long bond 10 1/2-10 3/4
 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 5 1984, inclusive: 10.816 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
 am \$342.75 pm \$340.30
 close \$340.50-341.00 (\$277.25-277.75)
 New York (latest): \$342.10
 Kruggerand (per cent): \$351.50-352.50 (\$286.26-287.25)
 Sovereigns (new): \$80-81 (\$65-66)
 *Excludes VAT

Exco pays £2m for IDB role

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Exco International, the financial and moneybroking group, yesterday unveiled plans to become an inter-dealer broker (IDB) in a future revamped government securities market.

Exco is putting up £2m for a 76 per cent stake in a new company, Exco IDB, which will be set up by four girls stockbrokers, and Stock Exchange members, who are providing £240,000.

IDBs, under the planned system, will act as brokers between the primary market-makers, enabling them to unload stock or unwind positions. The business will be similar to moneybroking, although technologically more complex because, unlike moneybrokers, IDBs will complete the broking transaction and preserve a barrier of confidentiality between primary dealers.

Most of the big moneybrokers plan to apply to become IDBs. R. P. Martin is still deciding, but Tullett & Tokyo plans a joint venture with RMJ Securities, the United States IDB owned by Security Pacific. Mills & Allen and Mercantile House, which own the US IDBs Garban and Fundamental Brokers Inc, have similar plans, and Charles Fulton is discussing a link with US IDB Cantor Fitzgerald.

Three of the four brokers joining up with Exco are under 30 years of age and all have just missed out becoming partners. Mr Nigel Williams and Mr Bill Kissack are with Grieveeson Grant, Mr Clive Cooke is with James Capel and Mr Geoffrey Lote is with Phillips & Drew.

Channon favours a more efficient ECGD

By John Lawless

The Government yesterday rejected the idea of turning Export Credits Guarantee Department into a public corporation but came down heavily in favour of Matthew Channon's report is year which recommended that it should be run very much more on private enterprise lines.

Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, said: "I fully share the committee's view that changes are needed to make ECGD more businesslike and commercial, but I have decided that such changes do not require the department to be turned into a public corporation."

ECGD is £370 million in the red in the current financial year. It has to go on borrowing from the Treasury-held Consolidated Fund will continue for probably a couple of years.

Managers pay £25m for CJR offshoots

By Graham Searjeant

Charterhouse J. Rothschild has accelerated its sales of industrial holdings with a £25 million combined management buyout of nine of its remaining industrial subsidiaries, including the successful Coloroll wallcoverings company.

The sale will bring CJR's involvement in industrial subsidiaries down from £74 million at the start of the year to £26m after deals during the summer.

The group plans to sell the remainder as part of a policy instituted after last year's merger of Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT and Northern with the Charterhouse Group, which had long run an industrial division, in order to concentrate on financial services.

The management buyout has been organized by executives of

Whitbread may reform share votes

By Christopher Dunn

Whitbread, one of the British's leading brewing concerns, may scrap its controversial two-tier share voting structure over the next few years as part of a general corporate face-lift, the group's new chairman, Mr Sam Whitbread, agreed yesterday. Earlier he had announced that interim profits were ahead by 15 per cent to £58 million.

Whitbread's issued equity capital comprises £92.3 million of 25p "A" Ordinary shares, and £4.1 million of 25p "B" shares. But £1 of "A" capital carries just one vote, compared with the 20 votes per £1 of "B" capital. The Whitbread Investment Company controls the "B" shares.

Mr Whitbread was adamant yesterday that the brewing group had no immediate plans to change the capital structure. "It has served us well," he said. But he also stressed that it would be scrapped if it appeared to stand in the way of the group's progress.

Last night analysts speculated that the pressure for a change in the Whitbread capital structure could well intensify. Group borrowings are rising, and the group may need to fund its debt. But the City institutions are unlikely to put up fresh capital without a franchise of capital. "A" says the category of capital.

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Early dealing for Telecom

Harvard Securities, the licensed dealer which operates an over-the-counter market in shares, intends to start dealing in British Telecom shares six hours before the official start of trading at 9am on Monday, December 3.

The 3pm start to dealings has been set by the Stock Exchange to allow time for markets to open in the United States.

Mr John Casey, a Harvard director, said: "We intend to

start at 9am on that day. We are a private client oriented firm and it is terribly unfair to expect people who subscribe for an issue designed for the private investor to wait for the Americans."

Stock Exchange firms have been barred from making a forward or "grey market" in the shares ahead of the 3pm official start. There is nothing to stop licensed dealers making such a market.

Reorganisation and expansion lead to significant gains.

	Consolidated Turnover and Profit	26 weeks to 27.8.1983	26 weeks to 1.9.1984
£M	£M	£M	£M
1185.7	Turnover	580.6	678.3
108.4	Trading profit	55.4	67.1
6.5	Related companies	3.6	4.4
(19.8)	Interest, net	(9.0)	(13.9)
95.1	Profit before tax	50.0	57.6

Whitbread and Company PLC announce unaudited results for the six months to 1st September, 1984.

- Consolidated turnover up 16.8% over the same period last year to £678.3m.
- Profit before tax and extraordinary items up 15.2% to £57.6m.
- Profit after tax up 8.6% to £42.9m.
- Interim dividend up 10.8% to 2.05 pence per share.
- Management effectiveness increased by reorganisation.

BEER BREWING AND RETAILING

- Profits increased by reduced costs
- Lager - Heineken, Stella Artois, Kaltenberg Diat Pils, Whitbread Gold Label Lager - accounted for 44% of beer sales
- 20 local ales support lead brands - Whitbread Trophy and Whitbread Best Bitter

WINE & SPIRITS

- Acquisition of the Buckingham Corporation will complement Julius Wile. The combined companies will be one of the leading importers of premium wines and spirits into the USA

- Long John International increased export sales in a difficult market
- Scoresby Rare continued as a leading "Bottled in USA" brand of scotch

- Stowells of Chelsea, brand leader in wine boxes, increased market share
- Calvet and Langenbach continued to expand in their overseas markets

RETAILING

- £1 million per week invested in retail outlets
- Over 1000 new jobs created
- Successful development of Beefeater, Roast Inns and Pizza Huts - now over 250 restaurants
- Pub food grows through Brewers Fare and Inns Fare
- Threshers, Ashe & Nephew and Whitbills Wines now provide wide geographic coverage with 770 off-licences

THE FUTURE

"We are confident that our increasingly cost-efficient beer operations together with the development of our retailing and wines and spirits businesses will lead to continued profit growth."

SAM WHITBREAD
CHAIRMAN



WHITBREAD

The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1. Tel. 01-606 4455

Lawson backs plan to tighten VAT collection

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has endorsed the majority of proposals by the Keith Committee to toughen up the collection of value added tax. But he said he had "sought to tilt the overall balance further in the taxpayer's favour".

The original proposals aimed to make VAT evasion a civil rather than criminal offence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

but a Customs and Excise paper on the proposals suggests that Excise should have wider powers to mitigate fines than those proposed by Lord Keith.

SKETCHLEY made pre-tax half profits of £5.18m, a fall of 11.8 per cent on the previous first half. Interim dividends rose to 4.3 from 4.1.

THE US consumer price index rose 0.4 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis in October after an identical 0.4 per cent September gain. The index was up 4.4 per cent from its year-earlier level.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND Department of Economic Development announced lignite (brown coal) deposits at

Defence chiefs hit at 'countertrading'

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Britain's defence industry is becoming increasingly worried about overseas countries' insistence on linking arms purchases with reciprocal trading deals, the so-called "countertrading phenomenon".

The sales directors of Marconi and British Aerospace, two of Britain's leading defence exporters, both gave warnings yesterday that the pressure for countertrade deals would increase over the next few years.

Mr Alec Sanson, marketing director of British Aerospace, told a defence seminar in London: "Countertrade is causing the industry a great deal of worry. It is a very serious problem and one that is here to stay."

Mr Bob Ashworth, sales director of Marconi, GEC's defence electronics arm, said that there would be more deals like Saudi Arabia's controversial aircraft-for-oil contract this year, under which the Saudi government bought 10 Boeing Jumbo jets in return for crude oil worth nearly \$1,000m. At the time the deal was thought to have played an important part in establishing the world oil market.

Mr Ashworth said that an increasing number of countries such as Indonesia and Australia were making orders conditional on reciprocal trade deals involving a range of local products, not just oil. "When you are faced with shifting ten million walking sticks you are in a difficult position," he said.

British Aerospace has established a separate countertrade department, Mr Sanson said. Its sole purpose was "taking the world" looking for ways of meeting countries' countertrade needs. It was a taxing problem for the companies involved.

The seminar, organized by the stockbroking firm Grieveeson Grant, also heard criticism that the British Government had failed to secure any significant countertrade benefits from the United States in return for adopting the Trident nuclear submarine system.

Mr Trevor Knapp, director general of marketing for the Ministry of Defence's Defence Sales Organization, said he expected the \$50,000m global defence market to grow by between two and five per cent per annum over the rest of the 1980s.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Johnson Matthey shares take a 26p knock

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, was in more trouble yesterday as market men knocked 26p off the share price, taking it to a lowly 80p.

The damage was done by a circular from Fielding Newson-Smith, the stockbroker, which described Matthey as an "over-gear, under-capitalised, non-yielding company" likely to need total financial restructuring.

The note from the brokers points out that two errors by the company - the trouble for its jewellery business in America last year and this autumn's disclosure of bad banking debts - have led to write-offs of more than £189 million and a payment of £50 million to the Bank of England, when the Old Lady rescued the banking division.

By the end of October this year, Matthey's balance sheet was probably showing a reserve

Shares of Glaxo Group rose 20p to £10.10 yesterday as City analysts studied the company's American operations. Some pondered the more intense competition Glaxo faces in the tough US market, others, who won the day, talked about the group's expected rapid US sales growth.

revenue deficit of £40 million, and with only £4.2 million of profits in the first half of this year, there is virtually no chance of a dividend for 1984. Earnings per share are likely to come out at about 6p, against more than 15p a share last time.

In the meantime, intense discussions are going on between Charter Consolidated - which has 27.9 per cent of Matthey - and other city investors. BP holds 3.57 per cent of Matthey shares and has declared an interest in taking on the whole company. But it is a complex situation, with Anglo-American, the South African group headed by Harry Oppenheimer, having an indirect holding in Matthey through its 36 per cent stake in Charter Consolidated.

Anglo-American is also taking part in the talks. In the rest of the market shares were still overshadowed by the British Telecom flotation, regained a little of their poise. But best levels were not held. At the close the FT 30 share index was up 5.9 points at 918.7 points. At one time it had been 7.6 points higher.

The FT-SE share index was also below its highest point, at 1,166.8 points up 7.7 points. The weakness of sterling on the foreign exchange market was one factor why the market failed to retain its full exuberance.

The pound's discomfort, caused by a strong dollar and oil price worries, has reduced the likelihood of a quick interest rate cut, it is felt.

With Wall Street opening weak the market tended to drift at the close. But trading throughout the day was thin. Government stocks were unsettled by the pound, falling by up to 2½, at one time.

TI Group was down 2p to 236p. But there were signs again of American interest. In early trading the shares touched 240p.

Estel, the communications group, fell 20p to 330p. The group is due to announce figures today and there are fears that profits will be below expectations. The computer side is thought likely to have caused problems.

Espley Trust tumbled 4p to 11p. The company has been hit

by the receivership at a number of companies associated with its former chairman Mr Ron Shuck. Consult International, one of the Shuck companies in difficulties, has 25 per cent of Espley.

Mr Shuck, suspended as Espley chairman at the beginning of last month, had said that he intended to bid 35p a share for the company.

Store shares were helped by the Sunday opening proposals. MFI rose 6p to 230p and Burton Group gained 6p to 402p.

477p and bidders Dixons was also 13p higher at 392p.

Foster Brothers Clothing gained 6p to 130p. The company is getting more involved in the high street retailing revolution by opening a chain of branches called The Place. First will be in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The first of these new style operations will be on four floors, selling clothing to the 11 to 30 age group. But each store will also sell records and tapes.

What amounts to turmoil had become evident in the normally serene local authorities yearling bonds market. Worries about whether rate-capped councils will honour their interest obligations has created, in effect, a two-tier market. The yearlings of 17 authorities are now traded by negotiation with a price generally ¼ lower than the rest. It seems that at the last moment a number of endangered authorities were withdrawn from this week's Tuesday offering.

operate a fast food restaurant and a hairdressing salon. J. Hepworth, strong lately, went against the stores trend, falling 6p to 420p on profit taking.

There was an investment talk-in at James Capel, the broker.

Trushhouse Forte continued to benefit from a favourable brokers' mention, rising 2p to 135p. But breweries were a little unsettled by the interim profits from Whitbread's which were at the lower end of the range. Whitbread's, the first major to report in the current profits season, fell 2p to 194p.

Newspaper shares brightened several pence. There were double figure gains for Associated Newspapers, Daily Mail Trust and Link House, and rises of from 1p to 7p for East Midland, Fleet Holdings, International Thomson and United Newspapers.

Among printers, Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communications Corporation rose 5p to 172p as market men looked forward to today's offer document for John Waddington. The City expected a useful profit forecast for BPCC among Mr Maxwell's weapons in this latest battle for the Monopoly game makers.

Waddington shares were unchanged at 555p, well ahead of the 500p a share cash offer from BPCC.

Elsewhere in the papers and packaging sector, Metal Box rose 4p to 344p, recouping some of Tuesday's markdown which followed the results and future profits warning.

Bowater Industries gained 5p to 187p, but erstwhile bid favourite DRG slipped another 1p to 150p.

Sketchley, the cleaning chain, fell 8p to 396p with its profits 12 per cent down. But Associated Heat Services responded to better-than-average figures with an 8p advance to 296p.

BL was firm on hopes that the workforce at Longbridge will follow their counterparts in other plants and return to work. Lucas Industries was up 4p to 270p.

Plastic Constructions rose another 3p to 59½p on hopes that Amari, which has built up a shareholding, will launch a full scale offer.

Hartons Group, bidding for Elson and Robbins, was up 1p to 49p but Elson retreated 1p to 77p. At one time it touched 79p.

Plessey, still suffering from recent profits disappointment, lost most of an early gain to close 1p higher at 303p.

A cautious statement at yesterday's annual meeting helped take 4p off Barratt Developments, down to 84p. But rival housebuilders Bryant Holdings went 2p higher to 71p, getting a boost from market anticipation of lower mortgage rates next month.

Wolstenholme Rink, producers of bronze and aluminium powders, rose 7p to 180p yesterday as G.M. Firih, the acquisitive metals group which is busy building up a shareholding in East Lancashire Paper Group, had acquired more than 5 per cent of the capital.

Costain Group, the construction engineers, showed a 6p rise to 346p - just below the previous best level for the year. Insurances were firm on yield considerations Cable and Wireless continued to draw strength from the BT issue.

TEMPUS

Whitbread figures fail to bring sparkle to shares

Whitbread enjoyed a number of firsts yesterday - the first interim results presentation by the new chairman, Mr Sam Whitbread, and the group's first Press and analysts' briefing in the brewers' 240-year history. But if the group is planning a revamp of its image, it has failed so far to impress the stock market.

The results look quite reasonable. Profits are ahead by 15.2 per cent to £57.6 million, on sales ahead by 16.8 per cent to £678 million. The dividend rises by 10.8 per cent.

The results are in line with expectations of profits growth in the mid-teens for the big brewers compared with single figure growth rates for the regionals.

The divisional breakdown - again a departure from tradition - provides scope for scepticism about the quality of interim earnings. The corporate plan is to shift out of beer, which the new management team sees as dull, and into fresh growth areas such as wines and spirits and retailing. Yet beer profits made up 54 per cent of total returns, up 7 percentage points.

Beer market share declined, in volume terms, by perhaps 1½-2 per cent, significantly worse than the national average, which is mainly attributable to the miners' strike. But lager sales were buoyant, implying a tricky time for Whitbread's ales.

Add in tough price competition in the take home market, which caused Whitbread to withdraw temporarily, and a reasonably unattractive picture emerges.

The bulk of the growth quite clearly stemmed from cost reductions, after the closure of the Luton brewery, where stoppages also trimmed market share in barley wines. Nevertheless, despite the new policy of disclosure, it is particularly difficult to quantify the cost benefits from the Luton closure. These are taken above the line, while some £12 million of extraordinary costs, mainly from Luton, come below the line.

There is scope for some profits fizzle in the second half, assuming that wines and spirits do well. The group is also pleased with its \$110m Buckingham Corporation buy, which fits in well with the rest of the group, making Whitbread one of the leading US

importers of premium wines and spirits.

More worrying, however, is the rise in borrowings. Gearing is now approaching 40 per cent, hardly surprising since the group is spending £1m per week on its shops. Some kind of funding move cannot be ruled out in the medium term, which in turn focuses attention on the next aspect of Whitbread which may require innovation - its two-tier capital structure. Institutions are reluctant to put up cash when their holdings are not fully enfranchised.

Sketchley

Sketchley, the industrial work-wear rental, linen-hire and dry-cleaning group, has fallen victim to fierce price competition and unfavourable weather.

The combined effect reduced first-half taxable profits to September 28 by 11.8 per cent to £5.18 million, despite a turnover rise of 55.5 per cent to £76 million. The increased turnover came from North America, after the acquisition of the diaper division of Blessings Corporation in March. Embassy Cleaners, a Canadian dry-cleaning chain in February, and Crown Lines Services of Philadelphia.

Profits did not follow turnover because of the cost of assimilating new businesses and because of strong competition in the US rental business. Rental profits were lower in dollar terms, but the shortfall was offset by a £200,000 exchange rate gain.

In Britain the first volume increases for four years in the rental business were much reduced by price cutting.

The new less profitable contracts to supply workwear to the National Coal Board and Ford took their toll. The long hot summer was bad for dry-cleaning and shoe repairs.

Sketchley now has shoe repair equipment or receiving facilities in all its dry-cleaning outlets.

Price cutting in Britain and in the US has stabilized, Sketchley believes, but there is little prospect of price recovery. The workwear industry is contracting.

Future growth, after two years when the company has doubled in size, will come from expanding existing businesses and the new franchising plans for the north of England.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		MICKEL	
Rubber in 5's per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in 5's per metric ton; Gasoil in 1,000 litres per metric ton.		Three months	3940-3970
		1-10	3940-3970
		1-10	614
LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET			
15 8 per oz.		Dec	341.40-341.80
1000		Jan	341.80
1000		Feb	341.80
1000		Mar	341.80
1000		Apr	341.80
1000		May	341.80
1000		Jun	341.80
1000		Jul	341.80
1000		Aug	341.80
1000		Sep	341.80
1000		Oct	341.80
1000		Nov	341.80
1000		Dec	341.80
1000		Jan	341.80
1000		Feb	341.80
1000		Mar	341.80
1000		Apr	341.80
1000		May	341.80
1000		Jun	341.80
1000		Jul	341.80
1000		Aug	341.80
1000		Sep	341.80
1000		Oct	341.80
1000		Nov	341.80
1000		Dec	341.80
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1000		Nov	341.80
1000		Dec	341.80
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This document includes particulars given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information with regard to Lazard Brothers Currency Reserve Fund Limited ("the Fund"). The Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 1000 each in the capital of the Fund ("Participating Shares") are offered for subscription on the basis of the information and representations contained in this document. All other information given or representations made by any person must be regarded as unauthorised.

The Directors have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or opinion. All the Directors accept responsibility accordingly.

A copy of this prospectus, having attached thereto copies of the contracts and the Auditors' consent referred to respectively in paragraphs 6 and 9 of Appendix D, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies in England and Wales for registration.

Application will be made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for all the Participating Shares, issued and available to be issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

The consent of the Advisory and Finance Committee of the States of Guernsey under The Control of Borrowing (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Ordinances 1950 to 1976, has been obtained for the issue of up to 19,000,000 Participating Shares. It must be distinctly understood that in giving its consent the Committee does not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to them.

The distribution of this prospectus and the offering of Participating Shares may be restricted in certain jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of any person in possession of this prospectus and any person wishing to make an application for Participating Shares pursuant to this prospectus to inform themselves of and to observe all applicable laws and regulations of any relevant jurisdiction.

This prospectus does not constitute an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorised or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. In particular, the Participating Shares have not been registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 and, except in a placement by the Fund that does not involve a public offering, may not be directly or indirectly offered, sold or delivered in the United States or to or for the benefit of any such persons. No application for any Participating Shares pursuant to the offer contained in this prospectus will be accepted from any person who is unable to make a declaration stating that such person is not a US person, that such person is not acquiring those Shares for the purpose of resale to a US person and that, upon the registration of those Participating Shares in the relevant name or names, no US person will be interested in those Shares.

For the purposes of this prospectus and the accompanying application form, "United States" means the United States of America, each state thereof, its territories and possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction; and "US person" means a national or resident of the United States, a partnership or corporation created or organised in or under the laws of the United States or any political sub-division thereof or an estate or trust (other than an estate or trust the income of which from sources outside the United States is not effectively connected with the conduct of trade or business within the United States) and is not included for purposes of computing United States federal income tax.

This prospectus shall not constitute an invitation to the public in Guernsey, Alderney or Herm to subscribe for any of the Participating Shares. No application for any Participating Shares will be accepted from any person who is unable to make a statement that he is not resident in Guernsey, Alderney or Herm for the purposes of liability to Guernsey income tax and is not applying for those Shares as nominee for any such person.

Statements made in this prospectus are based on the law and practice currently in force in Guernsey and the United Kingdom, and are subject to change therein.

20 November 1984

Lazard Brothers Currency Reserve Fund Limited

(A company incorporated with limited liability in Guernsey on 15 November 1984 under the provisions of the Companies (Guernsey) Laws, 1908 to 1973)

Initial offer for subscription of up to 19,000,000 Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of £0.01 each of the following classes and at the following prices payable in full on application:

Class of Participating Shares	Subscription Price per Participating Share
Sterling Shares	£10
United States dollar Shares	US\$10
Japanese yen Shares	¥3,000
Deutschmark Shares	DM40
Swiss franc Shares	Sfr30
French franc Shares	FF100

Authorised	Share Capital	Nominal Value
10,000	Management Shares of £1 each	£10,000
19,000,000	Unclassified Shares of £0.01 each	£190,000
		£200,000

The subscription lists for this offer of Participating Shares will open at 10.00 am Guernsey time on 30 November 1984 and will close not later than 5.00 pm on the same day. Participating Shares will be allotted to applicants on 3 December 1984.

In the event that the amount raised by the issue of Participating Shares pursuant to this offer is less than £1,000,000 or its equivalent (see paragraph 8 of Appendix D) all application monies will be returned to applicants at their risk and will be posted not later than 5 December 1984.

LAZARD BROTHERS CURRENCY FUND LIMITED

Directors

DOUGLAS HAIG BUSHELL FIB (Chairman)
Lower Hall, Rue de la Pompe, Augres, Trinity, Jersey, Channel Islands
Managing Director, Lazard Brothers & Co. (Jersey) Limited and Lazard Brothers & Co. (Guernsey) Limited

RUPERT ARTHUR REES EVANS
1 Le Marchant Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
Advocate of The Royal Court of Guernsey and a Partner of Ozanne van Leuven & Perrot

PETER TIMOTHY HART
Le Tapis, Clos Royale, Grouville, Jersey, Channel Islands
Director, Lazard Securities (Jersey) Limited and Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited

GORDON KIRK JOHNS
58 Station Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 4TL, United Kingdom
Manager, Lazard Securities Limited

CHRISTOPHER BRUNTON MELLUISH
Thundridge Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 0UF, United Kingdom
Managing Director, Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited, Joint Managing Director, Lazard Securities Limited

LUCAS HENDRICK WURFBAIN
Torreblanca 49, Laren, Holland
Managing Director, Pierson, Holding & Pierson NV

Administration

Registered Office
16 Glatigny Esplanade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
Manager, Secretary and Registrar
Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited
10 Glatigny Esplanade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
Telephone Guernsey 21367, Telex 4191643

Investment Adviser
Lazard Securities (Jersey) Limited
2-6 Church Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands
Telephone Jersey 37361, Telex 4192383

Custodian and Bankers
Lazard Brothers & Co. (Guernsey) Limited
16 Glatigny Esplanade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
Telephone Guernsey 21367, Telex 4191643

Auditors
Coopers & Lybrand, Chartered Accountants
Abacus Chambers, Smith Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands

Stockbrokers
Hoare Govett Limited
Heron House, High Holborn, London WC1V 7PB, United Kingdom

Legal Advisers
In Guernsey:
Ozanne van Leuven & Perrot, Advocates
PO Box 180, 1 Le Marchant Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
In England:
Fresthills, Solicitors
Grindall House, 25 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7LH, United Kingdom

THE FUND

The Fund was incorporated with limited liability in Guernsey on 15 November 1984. It will be managed and resident in Guernsey. It is an open-ended investment company and will operate in a similar way to a unit trust, so that on each Subscription Day Participating Shares may be issued and redeemed at prices based on their underlying net asset value. Participating Shares being offered may be designated in any one of the currencies listed below. Shares designated in a particular currency form a separate class of Participating Shares. A separate currency fund will be established and maintained for each class of Participating Shares (see further below).

Objectives

The Fund aims to provide investors with a return based on money market rates, a high degree of capital protection and ready availability of funds. The income and profits derived from the Fund's investments will be accumulated within the Fund and will be reflected in the value of the Participating Shares. Investors have a choice of currencies in which to invest with the ability to transfer between currencies by converting into different classes of Participating Shares.

Investment Policy

The Fund will make deposits and invest in short term instruments such as certificates of deposit, bank acceptances, short term treasury bills, floating rate notes, prime quality corporate bonds, and bonds and notes issued by governments and their agencies. Each of the Fund's investments will have a maturity of not more than one year and will be denominated in the currency in which the relevant Participating Shares are designated.

PRINCIPAL FEATURES

Structure

The Fund is an open-ended investment company registered and managed in Guernsey.

Objective

The Fund aims to provide returns for investors based on money market rates. Income and gains will be accumulated within the Fund and reflected in the value of the Participating Shares.

Classes of Participating Shares and currencies

There are six different classes of Participating Shares, one class for each of the currencies listed above. Switching between currencies is available.

Investment policy

The Fund's policy will be to invest in deposits and securities with maturities of twelve months or less.

Subscription and redemption of Participating Shares

Participating Shares may generally be subscribed and redeemed on Thursday in each week.

Share prices and valuations

The subscription price and redemption price for Participating Shares will be based on the value of the net assets of the relevant currency fund.

Income and distributions

Income will be rolled up within each currency fund and will not be distributed by way of dividend.

Charges

Management fees at the rate of 1/2 per cent. per annum and custodian fees at the rate of 1/8 per cent. per annum of the net asset value of the Fund will be payable. No initial charge will be made on the issue of Participating Shares other than in respect of any rounding adjustment.

Taxation

United Kingdom resident investors will generally have any gain realised on the redemption or sale of Participating Shares taxed as income. Switching between currencies should not give rise to any income tax or capital gains tax charge (see below).

Currency Funds

A separate currency fund will be established for each class of Participating Shares and will be maintained in the currency in which that class of Shares is designated. Each currency fund will be managed separately and independently.

The assets, liabilities, income and expenses allocated to each class of Participating Shares will be applied to the currency fund established for that class. Liabilities of the Fund will generally be allocated to the currency fund to which they relate. If they do not relate to any particular currency fund, they will be allocated between all the currency funds in such manner as the Directors deem to be equitable (for further details see Appendix A).

The Directors have authorised the issue of Participating Shares designated in sterling, US dollars, Japanese yen, deutschmarks, Swiss francs and French francs. However, the Directors may, at their discretion, authorise the issue of Participating Shares designated in other currencies.

Subscription and redemption monies in respect of Participating Shares will be payable in the currency in which the Participating Shares are designated, except for Participating Shares designated in Japanese yen. However, at the request and cost of investors, Lazard Brothers & Co. (Guernsey) Limited will be prepared to convert subscription monies tendered in a different currency into the currency in which the Participating Shares are designated, and to convert redemption proceeds from the currency in which Participating Shares are designated into a different currency. The subscription and redemption monies in respect of the Japanese yen class of Participating Shares cannot be paid in yen but will be paid in some other currency acceptable to Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited ("the Manager"). The deposits and securities held for the Japanese yen currency fund will, however, be denominated in yen.

There will be no currency risk within any one currency fund. However, if an investor chooses to invest in Participating Shares designated in a currency other than his own, he will be accepting a currency risk.

Income

The Directors do not intend that dividends will be declared in respect of any class of Participating Shares. All income will be accumulated in the appropriate currency fund and will be reflected in the net asset value of the Participating Shares.

Directors of the Fund

Douglas Haig Bushell FIB (Chairman) (aged 56)
is Managing Director of both Lazard Brothers & Co. (Jersey) Limited and Lazard Brothers & Co. (Guernsey) Limited.

Rupert Arthur Rees Evans (aged 46)
is an Advocate of The Royal Court of Guernsey and a Partner of Ozanne van Leuven & Perrot.

Peter Timothy Hart (aged 33)
is a Director of Lazard Securities (Jersey) Limited, Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited, Lazard Brothers Sterling Reserve Fund Limited, Lazard Brothers International Income Fund Limited, The Diversified Bond Fund Limited and a number of other investment companies.

Gordon Kirk Johns (aged 36)

is a Manager of Lazard Securities Limited. He is a Director of Lazard Brothers International Income Fund Limited, The Diversified Bond Fund Limited and a number of other investment companies.

Christopher Brunton Melluish (aged 48)

is a Managing Director of Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited and Joint Managing Director of Lazard Securities Limited. He is a Director of Lazard Brothers International Income Fund Limited, The Diversified Bond Fund Limited and a number of other investment companies.

Lucas Hendrick Wurfbain (aged 50)

is Managing Director of Pierson, Holding & Pierson NV and a Director of Lazard Brothers Sterling Reserve Fund Limited and a number of other investment companies.

Procedure for Subscription

Applications for Participating Shares should be made on the application form provided at the end of this prospectus. The procedures to be followed and the minimum investment in any one class of Participating Shares for which applications will be accepted are set out on the application form.

Conversion of Participating Shares

Holders of Participating Shares of a particular class will be entitled to convert some or all of those Shares into Participating Shares of another class. Conversion may normally take place on any Subscription Day. A shareholder who wishes to convert should notify the Manager, complete the conversion notice on the back of his share certificate(s), and forward the certificate(s) to the Manager so as to arrive by 3.00 pm Guernsey time on the business day before the Subscription Day on which the conversion is to be effected. New share certificates will be posted within twenty-eight days after the Subscription Day on which conversion takes place at the converting shareholder's risk provided that the Manager has received the duly completed certificate(s) in respect of the Participating Shares being converted. The implementation of the conversion will normally take place on the Subscription Day following the business day on which a conversion request is notified to the Manager and will not be delayed pending receipt of the old certificate(s) duly completed.

Conversion takes place by reference to the value of Participating Shares of the relevant classes in accordance with the formula set out in Appendix A.

The Manager has been advised by United Kingdom tax counsel that the conversion of Participating Shares of one class into Participating Shares of a different class will not give rise to any charge to United Kingdom income tax or capital gains tax.

The right to convert is conditional on there being no suspension of the valuation of the net asset value of the currency fund established for the Participating Shares of the class being converted or into which conversion is to be made, on all relevant foreign exchange markets being open, and on there being sufficient unissued share capital available to implement the requested conversion. The Directors will seek to ensure that there is sufficient unissued share capital for this purpose.

Redemption of Participating Shares

Participating Shares of any class may, except where there is a suspension of the valuation of the net assets of the currency fund established for that class (see below), be redeemed on any Subscription Day at the redemption price ruling on that day. The Manager may elect to purchase at a price not less than the redemption price any Participating Shares presented for redemption.

The redemption price for a Participating Share of a particular class on a Subscription Day is determined by assessing the value of the net assets of the currency fund established for that class on the Valuation Day immediately preceding that Subscription Day, deducting a provision for duties and charges which would be payable on the realisation of all the assets comprised in that currency fund, and dividing the amount so ascertained by the total number of Participating Shares of that class in issue and deemed to be in issue. The resulting figure is adjusted downwards to the nearest whole unit of currency (as defined in the articles of association of the Fund). The amount necessary to effect such downward adjustment is payable to the Manager for its absolute use and benefit.

In order to qualify for redemption on a particular Subscription Day, instructions should be received not later than 3.00 pm Guernsey time on the immediately preceding business day. Requests for redemption received late may be held over until the next Subscription Day. To redeem all or part of his holding of Participating Shares, a shareholder should complete the redemption request form on the back of the relevant share certificate(s) and send the certificate(s) to the Manager.

Requests for redemption of Participating Shares of a particular class once made may be withdrawn only in the event of a suspension of the valuation of the net asset value of the currency fund established for Participating Shares of that class.

Any amount payable to a shareholder on the redemption of Participating Shares of a particular class will be paid in the currency in which those Shares are designated, except in the case of yen Shares (see above). However, if an investor wishes to receive redemption proceeds in a different currency, Lazard Brothers & Co. (Guernsey) Limited will be prepared to convert redemption proceeds into a different currency at the request and cost of the investor. Such amounts will be paid by cheque and will be posted to the shareholder (or for amounts in excess of £10,000 or equivalent cabled or teleaxed to a bank at the shareholder's request and expense) within five business days after the later of the date on which the redemption (or purchase) takes effect and the date of receipt of a duly endorsed certificate for the Participating Shares to be redeemed or purchased.

Lazard Brothers Currency Reserve Fund Limited

The Fund is not bound to redeem on any one Subscription Day more than one quarter of the total number of Participating Shares of any class then in issue or deemed to be in issue.

If at any time after the third anniversary of the date of incorporation of the Fund the aggregate amount of the values of the net assets of each currency fund on each Valuation Day within a period of eight consecutive weeks is less than £250,000 or equivalent, the Fund may within eight weeks of the expiry of that eight week period give four weeks notice (expiring on a Subscription Day) to all holders of Participating Shares that it will redeem on that Subscription Day all (but not some) of the Participating Shares not previously redeemed at the redemption prices ruling on that day.

If at any time the net asset value of the currency fund established for any particular class of Participating Shares on each Valuation Day within a period of eight consecutive weeks is less than £250,000 or equivalent, the Fund may within eight weeks of the expiry of that eight week period give four weeks notice (expiring on a Subscription Day) to all holders of Participating Shares of that class that it will redeem on that Subscription Day all (but not some) of the Participating Shares of that class not previously redeemed at the redemption price ruling on that day. Any such notice given by the Fund will not prejudice the rights of holders of the Participating Shares of the class affected by the notice to convert their shares into Participating Shares of a different class on or before that Subscription Day.

Subscription and Valuation Days

Subscription Days will normally be every Thursday or if that day is not a business day the next following business day or such other day as may from time to time be determined by the Directors. The first Subscription Day after the initial issue of Participating Shares will be 6 December 1984.

After the initial issue of Participating Shares, the net asset value of each currency fund will be valued on each Valuation Day which will normally be the business day immediately preceding the day before each Subscription Day. However, the Directors may suspend valuation of the net assets of any currency fund if, in their opinion, it is not reasonably practicable for the Fund to dispose of investments attributable to that currency fund or fairly to determine the value of net assets of that currency fund, if a breakdown occurs in any of the means normally employed to ascertain such value, or if the remittance of funds which will or may be involved in the realisation of, or in payment for, any investments or in the issue, sale or redemption of Participating Shares cannot be carried out without undue delay or at normal rates of exchange.

Valuations

For the purpose of calculating the net asset value of a currency fund, deposits will be valued at cost plus interest accrued to the relevant Valuation Day. Treasury bills, certificates of deposit and other similar securities will be valued at noon on the relevant Valuation Day in accordance with normal market practice. The value of the assets comprised within a currency fund will be calculated at offer prices for the purposes of calculating the price at which Participating Shares are to be issued and at bid prices for the purposes of calculating the price at which Participating Shares are to be redeemed. Quoted investments will be valued using the bid and offer prices at the official close of the relevant stock exchange on the Valuation Day in question.

Management and Administration

The Manager, Secretary and Registrar
Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited will manage the business of the Fund. The Manager will also act as secretary and registrar of the Fund.

The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lazard Brothers & Co., (Guernsey) Limited ("LBG"), a registered Guernsey bank and a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, a major London Accepting House.

Investment Adviser
Lazard Securities (Jersey) Limited ("LSJ") has been appointed investment adviser to the Manager and will provide investment policy guidance and advice. LSJ is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lazard Brothers & Co., (Jersey) Limited which is a registered Jersey bank and also a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited.

LSJ manages Lazard Brothers International Income Fund Limited, Lazard Brothers Sterling Reserve Fund Limited, Lazard Brothers International Capital Fund (Cayman) Limited, Lazard Brothers International Asset Fund Limited, Lazard Brothers Far Eastern Fund Limited, Lazard Brothers North American Fund Limited, The Capital Growth Bond Fund Limited, The Diversified Bond Fund Limited, The Japan International Fund Limited and other portfolios, which together have total investments whose value exceeds US\$440 million.

Custodian
Lazard Brothers & Co., (Guernsey) Limited will act as custodian of the assets of the Fund. All the assets of the Fund will be held by LBG or to its order. LBG may appoint sub-custodians, nominees and agents to perform its duties or discretions provided that LBG remains liable for any acts or omissions of, or loss directly or indirectly caused by, any such persons. Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited will act as nominee of LBG to hold certain of the Fund's investments to the order of LBG.

The Manager, LSJ and LBG were appointed under the agreements referred to in paragraph 6 of Appendix D.

Charges and Fees

The Manager
In respect of its services as manager, secretary and registrar, the Manager will receive from the Fund a monthly fee of an amount equal to the aggregate of one fifth second part of one half of one per cent. of the values of the net assets of the Fund as at each Valuation Day during the relevant month (as determined for the purpose of calculating the subscription price of Participating Shares).

The Manager will make no initial charge to investors in respect of Participating Shares to be allotted on 3 December 1984. On subsequent issues it may retain for its own benefit the amount necessary to round up the subscription price of each Participating Share to the nearest whole unit of currency (as defined in the Fund's articles of association).

The investment adviser, LSJ, will receive fees which will not be borne by the Fund but will be paid by the Manager.

The Custodian

In respect of its services as custodian, LBG will receive from the Fund a monthly fee of an amount equal to one four hundred and sixteenth part of one per cent. of the values of the net assets of the Fund (calculated as in the case of the Manager's fee) as at each Valuation Day during the relevant month. LBG will meet any expenses or fees of its sub-custodians, nominees and agents, including Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, out of its remuneration.

Other Expenses

The Fund will be responsible for certain expenses as specified in the management agreement and in the custodian agreement such as audit fees and stamp and other duties and charges incurred on the acquisition or realisation of investments. In addition, the Fund will pay its formation expenses and all expenses in connection with the initial issue of Participating Shares and the obtaining of the listing of the Participating Shares on The Stock Exchange, London. Those expenses will be amortised over a period of five years from the date of the Fund's commencement of business and charged against income. The Manager and LBG will meet all other expenses incurred by them in connection with the provision of their services.

Taxation

It is intended that the Fund will be resident in Guernsey. The Administrator of Income Tax in Guernsey has confirmed that, on the basis of the proposed operations of the Fund as described in this prospectus, the Fund will be eligible for exemption from taxation in Guernsey under the provisions of the Income Tax (Exempted Companies and Trusts) (Guernsey) Ordinance 1984. The Fund will seek such exemption which will be granted on payment of an initial fee of £1,300 and, thereafter, an annual fee of £1,300.

Guernsey does not levy taxes upon capital inheritances, capital gains, gifts or sales. No stamp duty will be levied in Guernsey on the transfer, conversion or redemption of Participating Shares. No Guernsey tax will be withheld in respect of the payment of redemption proceeds.

The investments of the Fund will be made in such a way as to seek to avoid or minimise taxes deductible at source or withheld from any income or capital receipts.

The United Kingdom Finance Act 1984 contains provisions concerning taxation in relation to "offshore funds". The broad effect of those provisions is that, where an investor who is subject to them disposes of an interest in a fund that is affected by them, any gain arising on the disposal will be treated as an "offshore income gain" and will be chargeable to income tax or corporation tax as an income receipt. The new provisions apply to persons who are resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and to non-United Kingdom resident persons whose interest in an offshore fund is held in connection with a branch or agency carrying on a trade in the United Kingdom. It is considered that the Fund will be an "offshore fund" within the meaning of the relevant provisions in the Finance Act 1984 and that those provisions will apply in relation to the Fund.

Clearance under section 464 of the United Kingdom Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 (cancellation of tax advantages from certain transactions in securities) has been given by the United Kingdom Board of Inland Revenue in relation to (inter alia):

- the initial issue of Unclassified Shares in the Fund as Participating Shares pursuant to the offer contained in this prospectus;
- the subsequent issue and redemption by the Fund of Participating Shares of each class at prices based on the underlying net asset values of the relevant currency funds established for each class of Participating Shares;
- the issue and redemption of Nominal Shares; and
- the conversion of Nominal Shares into Participating Shares of any class.

The attention of individuals ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is drawn to section 478 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, as amended, and to section 45 of the Finance Act 1981, which may in certain circumstances render them liable to United Kingdom income tax in respect of undistributed income of the Fund.

The Finance Act 1984 contains provisions concerning the taxation of "controlled foreign companies". Under those provisions companies resident for taxation purposes in the United Kingdom having a sufficient interest, generally in excess of 10 per cent., in the Fund could in certain circumstances be chargeable to United Kingdom corporation tax in respect of any undistributed income profits of the Fund which may be or may be deemed to be their profits for the purposes of United Kingdom taxation.

The foregoing summaries are based on current law and practice and are subject to changes therein. Investors in any jurisdiction are advised to consult their professional advisers on the possible tax, exchange control and other consequences of buying, holding, converting, selling or redeeming Participating Shares.

Accounts and Reports

The Fund's first accounting period will end on the last Valuation Day in December 1985. Subsequent accounting periods will end on the last Valuation Day in December of each year. Copies of the audited accounts of the Fund for an accounting period will be sent to shareholders at their registered addresses normally during the following February. Shareholders will also be sent half-yearly reports relating to the Fund normally during August in each year.

Publication of Prices of Shares

The quotations for Participating Shares on The Stock Exchange, London will appear in The Stock Exchange Daily Official List. The Manager will also arrange for the Financial Times to publish weekly the prices of the Participating Shares.

Further Information

Further information is contained in the following Appendices:

- Share Capital and Rights
- Auditors' Report
- Articles of Association - Directors
- General Information
- Documents Available for Inspection

Copies of this prospectus, incorporating the application form, may be obtained from:

- Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited
21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT, United Kingdom
- Lazard Brothers & Co., (Guernsey) Limited
16 Glatigny Esplanade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
- Lazard Brothers & Co., (Jersey) Limited
2-6 Church Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands

APPENDIX A

Share Capital and Rights

The authorised share capital of the Fund is £300,000, divided into 10,000 Management Shares of £1 each and 19,000,000 Unclassified Shares of 1p each. The Unclassified Shares may be issued as Participating Shares or Nominal Shares. The Participating Shares are divided into classes according to the currency in which they are designated. At the date hereof no Participating or Nominal Shares have been issued. 10,000 Management Shares have been issued for cash at par and those Management Shares are held by the Manager.

Management Shares

The Management Shares have been created principally in order that Participating Shares may be issued. Under the laws of Guernsey the Participating Shares, to be redeemable, have to be preference shares. In order to be preference shares, the Participating Shares must have a preference over some other class of share capital.

The subscription proceeds received on the allotment and issue of Management Shares are credited to a Management Fund in the books of the Fund. Interest or other income received in respect of cash or other assets comprised in the Management Fund is also credited to that fund. The assets and liabilities of the Management Fund are kept separate from the other assets and liabilities of the Fund. An annual fee is payable by the Fund to the holders of the Management Shares in respect of each accounting period of the Fund equal in amount to the income received during that accounting period from the investment of the assets in the Management Fund. The amount of that fee is paid out of the Management Fund. The Directors will establish a Management Reserve Account to which will be credited or debited (as the case may be) any surplus or deficit arising on the realisation of any investments held in the Management Fund. The amount standing in the credit of the Management Reserve Account will only be utilised in the winding up of the Fund.

The Management Shares each carry one vote on a poll but do not carry any right to dividends. In a winding up, they rank pari passu for a return of paid up capital out of the assets of the Fund not comprised within any currency fund (after the return of nominal capital paid up on Participating Shares and Nominal Shares). In addition, any amount remaining in the Management Fund will then be distributed pari passu to holders of Management Shares.

Participating Shares

On or before the allotment of any Participating Share, the Directors will determine the currency in which that Participating Share will be designated. Participating Shares are divided into classes according to the currency in which they are designated. A separate currency fund will be established for each class of Participating Shares. All monies payable on or in respect of a Participating Share (including subscription and redemption monies) are payable in the currency in which that Participating Share is designated (with the exception of yen Participating Shares).

Currency funds will be maintained in accordance with the following provisions:

- the proceeds from the allotment and issue of a class of Participating Shares will form part of the currency fund established for that class of shares, and on redemption of any Participating Share of that class the assets comprised in that currency fund will be reduced by the amount of the redemption price. The assets and liabilities and income and expenditure attributable to a particular currency fund will generally be kept separate from all other assets and liabilities of the Fund;
- separate books for each currency fund will be kept in which all transactions relating to that currency fund will be recorded;
- the proceeds from the conversion of Nominal Shares into Participating Shares of any class, together wherever possible with an amount equivalent to the nominal value thereof, will be applied in the books of the Fund to the currency fund established for that class of Participating Shares;
- any asset derived from any other asset (whether cash or otherwise) that was comprised in any currency fund will be applied in the books of the Fund to that currency fund and any increase or diminution in the value of such an asset will also be applied to that currency fund;
- if there are any assets of the Fund (not being subscription proceeds received on the issue of Nominal Shares or comprised in the Management Fund or the Management Reserve Account) which the Directors do not consider readily attributable to a particular currency fund or currency funds, the Directors will allocate those assets to and among any one or more of the currency funds in such manner and on such basis as they in their discretion deem fair and equitable;
- if there are any liabilities, expenses, costs, charges or reserves of the Fund that are not readily attributable to any particular currency fund or currency funds, the Directors will allocate those liabilities, expenses, costs, charges or reserves to and among any one or more of the currency funds in such manner and on such basis as the Directors in their discretion deem fair and equitable;
- if as a result of a creditor proceeding against certain of the assets of the Fund or for any other reason a liability, expense, cost, charge or reserve is borne in a different manner from that in which it would have been applying the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, the Directors may transfer assets to and from any currency fund with a view to achieving the position laid the principles in those paragraphs being applicable;
- where the assets of the Fund attributable to the Nominal Shares give rise to any net profits, the Directors may allocate assets representing those net profits to any currency fund or currency funds as they deem appropriate.

The Participating Shares carry a right to dividends declared by the Fund in general meeting or resolved to be paid by the Directors. Each holder of Participating Shares will be entitled, on a poll, to one vote for each Participating Share held.

In a winding up, each Participating Share carries the right to a return of the nominal capital paid up in respect of such Share in priority to the repayment of the nominal amounts paid up on Nominal and Management Shares. Those sums are payable primarily out of the assets comprised in the currency fund established for the class of Participating Shares concerned. If there are insufficient assets in that currency fund recourse will be had first to any assets not comprised within any currency fund and secondly to the assets remaining in the currency funds established for the other classes of Participating Shares (after return to the holders of those Participating Shares of the nominal capital paid up on those Participating Shares) pro rata to the values of the assets remaining in each of those other currency funds.

After the return of the nominal capital paid up on all the Participating Shares, any balance remaining in a currency fund will be distributed to the holders of Participating Shares of the relevant class, that distribution being made in each case in proportion to the number of Participating Shares of the relevant class held by each holder.

All Participating Shares not previously redeemed will be redeemed by the Fund on the first Subscription Day in 2084 at the redemption price ruling on that day.

Further Issues of Participating Shares

The articles of association provide that, after the initial issue of Participating Shares and except when there is a suspension of the valuation of the net assets of a currency fund established for a particular class of Participating Shares (when Shares of that class may not be issued), further Participating Shares of each class may be issued on each Subscription Day at a price per Participating Share of not less than that determined by assessing the value of the net assets of the currency fund established for the relevant class on the Valuation Day immediately preceding a Subscription Day, adding thereto the sum the Directors consider represents the appropriate provision for the duties and charges payable on a deemed acquisition of all the assets comprised in the currency fund established for that class of Participating Shares, and dividing that amount by the total number of Participating Shares of the relevant class in issue and deemed to be in issue. The price per Participating Share so calculated may then be increased by a Manager's fee of an amount not exceeding five per cent. of such price plus the amount necessary to round up the resulting sum to the nearest whole unit of currency (as defined in the Fund's articles of association).

Nominal Shares

The Nominal Shares can only be issued at par and only for the purpose of providing funds for the repayment of the nominal value of Participating Shares redeemed. They will be issued only to the Manager. Each holder of Nominal Shares is entitled, on a poll, to one vote in respect of all the Nominal Shares held by him. The Nominal Shares carry no right to dividends.

In a winding up, the Nominal Shares carry the right to repayment of paid up nominal capital out of assets of the Fund not comprised in any currency fund after repayment of the nominal capital paid up on all Participating Shares but in priority to repayment of the nominal capital paid up on the Management Shares. After the return of the nominal capital paid up on Management Shares, any surplus assets not comprised in any currency fund or in the Management Fund will be distributed to holders of the Nominal Shares pari passu.

Variation of Rights

The rights attached to any class of shares may, subject to the laws of Guernsey, or unless otherwise provided by the terms of issue of the shares of that class, be varied or abrogated with the consent in writing of the holders of not less than three quarters of the issued shares of that class or with the sanction of a resolution passed at a separate meeting of the holders of the shares of that class by a majority of three quarters of the votes cast at that meeting. For these purposes, the Directors may treat all the classes of Participating Shares as forming one class if they consider that all such classes would be affected in the same way by the proposals under consideration and that there would be no conflict between them but in every other case each class of Participating Shares shall be treated as a separate class. The rights attached to each class of Participating Shares are deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of any shares (other than Participating Shares of any class) ranking pari passu with or in priority to them as respects participation in the profits of the Fund. Subject to the above, the rights conferred on the holders of any shares issued with preferred or other rights will not, unless otherwise expressly provided by the terms of issue of the shares of that class, be deemed to be varied by the creation or issue of further shares ranking pari passu with them.

Conversions

A holder of Participating Shares of any class (the "old class") has the right to convert all or any of those Shares into Participating Shares of another class (the "new class") on any Subscription Day except when there is a suspension of the determination of the net asset value of the currency fund attributable to Participating Shares of the old class or Participating Shares of the new class.

The Directors will determine the number of Participating Shares of the new class to be allotted upon any conversion in accordance with the following formula:

$$S = \frac{R \times RP \times CF}{SP}$$

Where:

- S is the number of Participating Shares of the new class to be issued; and
- R is the number of Participating Shares of the old class to be converted; and
- RP is the redemption price of Participating Shares of the old class calculated on the Valuation Day immediately preceding the Subscription Day on which the conversion is to be effected; and
- CF is the applicable currency conversion factor determined by the Directors as being the rate of exchange between the currency in which Participating Shares of the old class are designated and the currency in which Participating Shares of the new class are designated; and
- SP is the subscription price for Participating Shares of the new class as calculated on the Valuation Day immediately preceding the Subscription Day on which the conversion is to be effected together with any initial charge of the Manager.

Fractions of Participating Shares may be issued to satisfy any fractional entitlements on conversion arising out of the application of the above formula.

APPENDIX B

Auditors' Report

The following is the text of a report, addressed to the Directors of the Fund by Coopers & Lybrand in Guernsey:

Abacus Chambers, Smith Street,
St. Peter Port, Guernsey,
Channel Islands

The Directors

Lazard Brothers Currency Reserve Fund Limited

20 November 1984

Dear Sirs,

Lazard Brothers Currency Reserve Fund Limited was registered under the laws of Guernsey on 15 November 1984. As at the date of this report, it has not traded and no accounts have been prepared and no dividends paid.

Yours faithfully,

Coopers & Lybrand
Chartered Accountants

APPENDIX C

The Articles of Association - Directors

The articles of association contain the following provisions (inter alia) relating to Directors:

- A Director may act in a professional capacity for the Fund (other than as Auditor) and may receive remuneration for such professional services. A Director may also hold any other office or place of profit with the Fund (other than the office of Auditor) and may be a director, officer or member of any company in which the Fund may be interested.
- A Director may contract with the Fund and no contract or arrangement made by the Fund in which any Director is in any way interested shall be liable to be avoided, but the nature of his interest must be declared at a meeting of the Directors.
- A Director may not normally vote in respect of any contract in which he is materially interested.
- Each Director is entitled to be paid up to £2,500 per annum for his services or such increased remuneration as may be resolved from time to time by the Fund in general meeting. The Directors may also be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with the business of the Fund and may receive remuneration for special services.
- The Directors may exercise the powers of the Fund to borrow subject to the limitations referred to in paragraph 12 of Appendix D.
- There is no share qualification for Directors.
- There is no age limit for Directors.
- A Director may be removed at any time by ordinary resolution of the Fund.

APPENDIX D

General Information

- The constitution of the Fund is defined in its memorandum and articles of association. Its registered office is at 16 Glatigny Esplanade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands.
- The expenses incurred in the formation of the Fund are estimated to amount to £2,500 which will be paid by the Fund. The expenses incurred in connection with the initial issue of Participating Shares and obtaining the listing of all classes of Participating Shares on The Stock Exchange, London (including the fees of legal, accountancy and financial advisers, printing and advertising costs and The Stock Exchange listing fee) are estimated to amount to £138,050. All of these expenses will be paid by the Fund and will be amortised over a period of five years from the date of the Fund's commencement of business and charged against income.
- The Fund is not engaged in any litigation or arbitration or any claim is known to the Directors to be pending or threatened against the Fund.
- The Manager may at its discretion pay commissions out of its management fee to persons in respect of subscriptions for Participating Shares made or procured by such persons.
It is currently being proposed that Lazard Brothers Sterling Reserve Fund Limited (the "Reserve Fund") be wound up early in 1985. The Manager will make a payment to holders of shares in the Reserve Fund who acquire Participating Shares before, during or, at the discretion of the Manager, immediately following that winding up provided that those Participating Shares are held for at least twelve calendar months from the date of their acquisition. That payment will be made to qualifying holders of Participating Shares shortly after the expiration of that twelve month period. The amount of that payment will be equal to, broadly, one half of the management fee that is attributable to those Participating Shares and is paid by the Fund to the Manager in respect of that twelve month period.
- There are no existing or proposed service contracts between any of the Directors and the Fund, but the Directors may receive remuneration as provided in the articles of association (see Appendix C). It is estimated that such remuneration in aggregate will not exceed £10,000 in the Fund's first accounting period.
- The following contracts, which are or may be material, have been entered into otherwise than in the ordinary course of business:
 - a management agreement between (1) the Fund and (2) the Manager dated 20 November 1984, whereby the Manager has agreed to manage the business of the Fund and act as secretary and registrar of the Fund;
 - a custodian agreement between (1) the Fund and (2) LBG dated 20 November 1984, whereby LBG has agreed to act as custodian of the assets of the Fund; and
 - a management advisory agreement between (1) the Fund, (2) the Manager and (3) LSJ dated 20 November 1984, whereby LSJ has agreed to provide investment advice to the Manager.
- The Fund has not commenced business and has not established and does not intend to establish a place of business in Great Britain. The Fund does not have any subsidiaries.
- The minimum amount which in the opinion of the Directors must be raised by the initial issue of Participating Shares in order to provide for the matters referred to in paragraph 4 of the Fourth Schedule to the Companies Act 1948 (Great Britain) is £1,000,000 or equivalent to be applied as follows:
 - a purchase price of property, nil;
 - preliminary expenses (including expenses in connection with the initial issue), to the extent incurred and payable by the Fund, £140,550;
 - repayment of monies borrowed by the Fund for preliminary expenses, nil;
 - working capital, £299,450.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

GLC abolition poses investment problems

By Judith Huntley

Reshuffle would hit value of industrial and commercial schemes which are underwritten by councils

The Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan councils is due to be published today. The onerous task now before both Houses of Parliament is the drafting of the fine print needed to translate the broad brush approach of abolition into the day-to-day operation of a new system. It will be a field day for the lawyers who are going to turn their attentions to unravelling the tangled web of provisions for transferring assets from the defunct authorities to whatever body succeeds them. Among these assets will be commercial and industrial property interests which have been underwritten by the councils. The question of what

happens to the investment value of industrial and commercial schemes underwritten by the GLC and the metropolitan councils is a moot point.

Mr John Heddle MP is planning to table a series of questions to coincide with the publication of the Bill. He will be asking the Government to clarify the position of owners of such property let to the GLC and the six threatened councils as head lessor and sub-let to occupants.

The value of such projects undertaken by the developers and financial institutions depends on the strength of the covenant and it will be of concern to them to know that this value will be maintained once the authorities are abolished.

Companies developing small industrial units in areas where they would normally not risk investment have done so because the metropolitan councils have taken long leases and guaranteed rental payment. If this guarantee is taken away the

value of the scheme becomes doubtful and it may even turn into a liability if the letting market is poor in the area concerned.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for local government, and the Department of the Environment, say that the interests of third parties in such cases will not be affected and that any legally binding agreements will be sustained by bodies handling the property and the debt arrangements which may go with them.

However, the detail of individual cases will have to be settled, probably by Property Transfer Orders which will be additional to the Bill.

In the case of London, it looks as if the Greater London Residuary Board or a London borough will have the job of taking on such interests. But it is the Government's intention to make the residuary bodies as short lived as possible, something which could prove problematic in the case of head leases which can last as long as 99 years.

Mr Idris Pearce, chairman of the Royal Institution of Char-



Artist's impression of Richmond's riverside development

tered Surveyors' working party on abolition, points to the potential problems of industrial schemes where there may have to be a write down in value.

A number of developments, for example, some undertaken by the Greater London Enterprise Board, have not been developed on strictly commercial criteria. If these have to be sold there is likely to be a fall in value. On the other hand if they are passed on to a local council, they may be reluctant to hold and

offer space from 3,175 sq ft to 37,500 sq ft in self contained units.

Rents will be pitched between £12 to £13 a sq ft. Both parties intend keeping the development in their portfolios. Morgan Grenfell Property Services will manage the development for the Trust and Richard Ellis is the letting agents. The Richmond scheme will be the third largest in the Trust's portfolio after its investments in Gracechurch Street and Finsbury Square. The unit trust is looking for larger investment properties.

The Trust will own the rest of the office buildings in total 109,000 sq ft and the residential and leisure elements of the scheme. The office buildings

manage property which is more of a liability than an asset.

The future of town planning once the metropolitan councils disappear is another issue yet to be finalized. The six councils outside London are likely to see their strategic planning functions devolved to the county councils.

In London, however, the Government intends setting up a planning commission with members being appointed by

the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Royal Town Planning Institute is opposed to the abolition arguing that the removal of the GLC and the metropolitan authorities will create more problems than it solves. The new commission will have to carry out the London-wide planning role now undertaken by the GLC but the institute is worried over possible job losses once the new system is adopted.

APPOINTMENTS

Brown, Shipley: Mr Derek J. Connolly becomes a director. A T Kearney: Mr Tom Bevington, Mr Christopher Clarke and Mr David Harland become directors.

Wyeth Laboratories (UK): Mr Neil Appleton is named managing director. Schreiber: Mr David A. Schreiber becomes managing director and Dennis H. Thomas chairman.

Honeywell Limited: Mr Brian Long is named vice chairman. Sealink: Mr Michael P. Aiken has been named director of passenger services.

Brownlee: Mr J. F. McLeland is succeeded by Mr R. E. Jack as a non-executive chairman.

Legal & General Group Mr C. S. S. Lyon is general manager (group finance and group resources). Mr J. M. Skae is general manager (group resources).

WFA: Mr A. R. Bland is head of group planning. Legal & General Assurance Society: Mr J. B. Craddock to be marketing director, Mr C. J. Hairs to be finance director & joint actuary, Mr C. C. Hatry to be resources director, Mr B. E. Palmer to be general insurance director and Mr E. A. Tilly to be life & pensions director.

Hartmann & Braun (UK): Mr Ray Blackwell is managing director. UBAF Bank: Mr P. J. W.

Taplin, has been named chief executive to succeed Mr Charles Barkin.

Hughes Group: Mr Peter McNelly holds the joint posts of finance director and company secretary.

Wavin Industrial Products: Mr William George Hasfield is now general sales manager and director designate.

IMS: Mr Keith Walley is now director and succeeds Sir John Cuckney as chairman in May 1985.

British Printing & Communication Corporation: Mr John McDouall has been named a main board director.

Wigham Poland Group: Mr Anthony Lumsden-Cook has joined the main board. Quaker Oats: Mr Robert Thomason becomes deputy managing director.

Hazell Watson & Viney: Mr Alan Lynch has been named sales & marketing director. BHP: Dr Charles B. Belcher, has been appointed European representative.

Declan Kelly Group: Mr Keith Lidgate has been named group finance director.

Management Horizons: Mr Roy A. Palmer is managing director and Mr Ian M. Clark is development director and both became directors of the main board.

Henry Cooke, Lumsden: Mr Norman Hyman has been named a director.

Norwich Union develops French taste

● Norwich Union, which is making healthy profits from its French life insurance operation, is investing part of the proceeds in commercial property in Paris and Lille.

It has been an investor in and developer of property in France for some time and has secured a series of lettings in its developments in both cities.

The company is to start soon on a £80 million (£6.98 million) 50,000 sq ft refurbishment at the Avenue Rochefort linking to the Avenue Fortuny in Paris. It is a joint scheme with a developer in France. The letting agent is Jones Lang Wootton.

Norwich Union says the Paris market is good with top quality space in the city centre in short supply. The asking rent for the development will be £1,800 (£158) a square metre. Norwich Union has pre-let its 20,000 sq ft shop and office scheme in Lille town centre at the Grand Place. Promodata, the home computer company, is taking space there.

Meanwhile, it is temporarily occupying Norwich Union's other Lille project at the Rue Nationale.

Most of the remaining space at the Rue Nationale is under

offer. The company says that the French portfolio represents about 22 per cent of the total overseas portfolio. The proceeds from overseas business are invested in property in the country from which they emanate for the benefit of policyholders.

● Westminster City Council's planning sub-committee is to decide today on the fine detail of plans for the development of St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner. The hospital site has been the subject of controversy since the decision of the Department of Health and Social Security to close it and sell the prominent site for commercial development.

The Grosvenor Estate, which owns half the site, won an appeal to develop it with 200,000 sq ft of offices. The hospital building is to be occupied by the Location of Industry Bureau.

The Bureau is making the latest application to Westminster to alter the hospital building. The Grosvenor Estate and the DHSS have now resolved their differences over the price for the part of the site owned by the Government, which Grosvenor

is to buy and incorporate with its own holdings. Rents from a new office building will finance the costly conservation exercise.

● Equitable Life and the Scottish Amicable Life Association are about to launch on the market their office development at Fenchurch Street in the City. The scheme, which is close to Fenchurch Street station, itself the subject of a large office development and station re-structuring, has 26,883 sq ft of offices with 4,689 sq ft of shops and restaurant space.

The asking rent for the offices from Walker Son & Packman is £295,000 per annum.

● October was a good month for the central London office market with the latest agents' report from Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks showing a continuing fall in availability. The space available fell by 18 per cent last month and at 8.13 million sq ft is the second lowest level this year.

Holborn saw the biggest fall in space at 18 per cent, helped by Kodak withdrawing its 83,000 sq ft building at 190

High Holborn, from the market. Demand in Mayfair and St James's is still strong. It is reported that Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks has let BP Pension Trust's 3,800 sq ft building in Farm Street at above the already high asking rent of £27 a sq ft.

The picture is not so comforting in the City according to Richard Saunders & Partners' October survey. This shows a rise in space available to 3.43 million sq ft. The City fringes also saw a rise in the amount of space on the market and a slight fall in space let to 159,536 sq ft.

● Merchant Investors Property Fund has sold the freehold of the 7,500 sq ft Duke House office development in Woking, Surrey to the Bovis Group Pension Fund for about £1.25m, showing an initial yield of 5.5 per cent. The building is let to Merlin Geophysical at a rent of £70,000 per annum. Richard Ellis acted for the vendor and Edward Erdman for the purchaser.

● The British Oxygen Company is moving its development and executive

headquarters to the Surrey Research Park in Guildford, Surrey. The company has taken a 200-year lease on a 7.5 acre site for which it has paid more than £2.5 million. It will construct a 105,000 sq ft building for 250 of its staff. The University of Surrey, advised by Strutt & Parker, owns the 70-acre research park site close to the university. It is developing its own 47,000 sq ft scheme there next year. Grand Metropolitan Biotechnology has taken a long lease at the park.

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AVAILABLE NOW

Bernard Thorpe

01-499 8353

Graham King & Partners

0732 459192

BARCLAYS HOME MORTGAGE RATE

Barclays Bank PLC announces to existing borrowers that from the close of business on 3rd December 1984 Barclays Home Mortgage Rate will be decreased from 12½% to

12¼% per annum

BARCLAYS

Published by Barclays Bank PLC. Reg. No. 48839. Reg. Office 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.

Lazard Brothers Currency Reserve Fund Limited

- Coopers & Lybrand in Guernsey have given and have not withdrawn their written consent to the issue of this prospectus with the inclusion therein of their report in the form and context in which it is included.
- This prospectus shall have the effect where an application is made in pursuance thereof of rendering all persons concerned bound by the provisions (other than penal provisions) of sections 50 and 51 of the Companies Act 1948 (Great Britain) so far as applicable.
- Persons interested in acquiring Participating Shares should inform themselves as to (a) the legal requirements within the countries of their nationality, residence or domicile for such acquisition, (b) any foreign exchange restriction or exchange control requirements which they might encounter on acquisition, conversion or disposal of Participating Shares, and (c) the income tax and any other tax consequences which might be relevant to the acquisition, holding, conversion or disposal of Participating Shares.
- Borrowings of the Fund and its subsidiaries (if any) may not, without the consent of a resolution passed at a meeting of the holders of the Participating Shares, exceed an amount equal to the aggregate of the Fund's share capital and consolidated reserves as defined in the Fund's articles of association. Although the Directors do not anticipate that any borrowings will be made, they intend to negotiate standby borrowing facilities for use in exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. Normal banking transactions will from time to time be carried out through Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited or its subsidiaries upon normal terms.
- The directors of the Manager are: Mr D. H. Bushell FIB of Lower Hall, Rue de la Pompe, Angres, Trinité, Jersey, Channel Islands. Mr R. A. R. Evans of 1 Le Marchant Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Mr P. T. Hart of Le Tapis, Clos Royale, Grouville, Jersey, Channel Islands. Mr B. A. E. Saunders AIB of Vaux Doult, Le Poulton, St. Andrews, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Interests of Directors of the Fund:

Mr D. H. Bushell is a director of LBG, the Manager and LSJ. Mr R. A. R. Evans is a director of the Manager and a partner of Ozzanne van Leuven & Perrot. A fee will be paid to Ozzanne van Leuven & Perrot in respect of their services in connection with the formation of the Fund and the issue of this prospectus. Mr P. T. Hart is a director of the Manager and LSJ. Mr C. B. Mellish is a managing director of Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited.

- Neither the Manager nor any director of the Manager holds any shares in the Fund with the exception of the 10,000 Management Shares owned by the Manager.
- Save as disclosed in the paragraphs under the headings "The Manager" and "The Custodian" in the section "Charges and Fees" above, in Appendix A and in paragraphs 12 and 13 above, no amount or benefit has been paid or given to any promoter by the Fund since its incorporation and none is intended to be paid or given.
- Save as disclosed in this Appendix D and in the paragraph "The Manager" in the section "Charges and Fees" above, no commissions, discounts, brokerages or other special terms have been granted in relation to shares, debentures or other capital issued or to be issued by the Fund.
- The Fund has not purchased or acquired or agreed to purchase or acquire any property.
- Since the date of incorporation of the Fund: (i) with the exception of the Management Shares, no shares, debentures or other capital of the Fund have been issued or agreed to be issued, fully or partly paid up, in cash or otherwise than in cash, nor is any such capital under option, or agreed conditionally or unconditionally to be put under option.

- Save as disclosed in paragraph 4 of Appendix C and in paragraph 13 of this Appendix, no Director has had any interest in the promotion of the Fund and no Director has had any interest, direct or indirect, in any property or assets acquired, disposed of by or leased to the Fund or proposed to be acquired, disposed of by or leased to the Fund;
- Save as disclosed in paragraph 13 of this Appendix, no Director has had a material interest in any contract or arrangement entered into by the Fund which is significant in relation to the business of the Fund.
- No shares, debentures or other capital of the Fund are proposed to be issued fully or partly paid up otherwise than in cash.

APPENDIX E

Documents Available for Inspection

Copies of the following documents are available for inspection during usual business hours on any weekdays (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) at the offices of Ozzanne van Leuven & Perrot, P.O. Box 186, 1 Le Marchant Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands and of Freshfields, (London) House, 25 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7LH, United Kingdom until 30 November 1984:

- the memorandum and articles of association of the Fund
- the Companies (Guernsey) Laws, 1908 to 1973 under which the Fund was incorporated
- the contracts referred to in paragraph 6 of Appendix D
- the report and consent of Coopers & Lybrand.

20 November 1984

APPLICATION FORM

This form, when completed, should be forwarded to: Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited, 16 Glatagney Esplanade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands to arrive not later than 5.00pm Guernsey time on 30 November 1984.

Please fill in details

Class of Share	Subscription Price per Participating Share	Minimum Subscription Shares	Amount	Number of Participating Shares Applied For	Amount Enclosed*
Sterling	£10	100	£1,000		
US dollar	US\$10	100	US\$1,000		
Yen	¥3,000	100	¥300,000		
Deutschmark	DM40	100	DM4,000		
Swiss franc	Sfr30	100	Sfr3,000		
French franc	FF100	100	FF10,000		

Each application must be accompanied by a cheque or banker's draft for the full amount payable on application, or the full amount payable on application must be telegraphically transferred to Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT, United Kingdom marked for the account of Lazard Brothers & Co., (Guernsey) Limited indicating the appropriate account number from the list below:

Sterling Shares: sight account no. 332/722881 call account no. 870754
US dollar Shares: 2-day notice account no. 944695
Deutschmark Shares: 2-day notice account no. 952709
Swiss franc Shares: 2-day notice account no. 953507
French franc Shares:

to arrive not later than 5.00 pm Guernsey time on 30 November 1984. Any such remittance should refer to the Fund and quote the name of the applicant.

*Payment should be made in the currency in which the class of Participating Shares applied for is designated, except in the case of Yen Participating Shares where payment may be made in some currency, other than Japanese yen, acceptable to Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited. Where a person wishes to apply for Participating Shares of a particular class in a currency other than the currency in which those Participating Shares are designated, the necessary foreign exchange transactions will be arranged and carried out by Lazard Brothers & Co., (Guernsey) Limited for the account of the applicant and at his responsibility at prevailing market rates of exchange on (generally) the day of receipt of application monies.

The minimum investment in any class of Participating Shares for which applications will be accepted is shown above.

The Fund reserves the right to reject any application in whole or in part in which event the application monies or any balance thereof will be posted to the applicant at his own risk not later than 5 December 1984. Where application monies (or any balance thereof) are returned, if a conversion of application monies into the currency in which Participating Shares of the class applied for has been carried out by Lazard Brothers & Co., (Guernsey) Limited, the currency (other than Japanese yen) into which conversion has been made will be returned to the applicant.

Acceptance of applications will be conditional on the Council of The Stock Exchange admitting to the Official List on or before 3 December 1984 the Participating Shares to be issued pursuant to the initial offer in the prospectus of the Fund dated 20 November 1984 and available for issue thereafter, and on the amount raised by the initial offer of Participating Shares being not less than £1,000,000 (or equivalent). Monies paid in respect of all applications will be posted to applicants at their own risk not later than 5 December 1984 if that listing is not obtained on or before that date or if such amount is not raised.

Please delete as applicable

I/We confirm that I/we have read and understood the prospectus of the Fund dated 20 November 1984 and hereby apply for the number of Participating Shares in the Fund that may be subscribed for at the initial offer price with the amount(s) stated above, subject to and on the terms of the memorandum and articles of association of the Fund and the Fund's prospectus dated 20 November 1984.

I/We

enclose a cheque(s) for the above amount(s) made payable to Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited
enclose a banker's draft(s) for the above amount(s) made payable to Lazard Brothers Fund Managers (Channel Islands) Limited
have telegraphically transferred the above amount(s) to Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited marked for the account of Lazard Brothers & Co., (Guernsey) Limited

to arrive not later than 5.00 pm Guernsey time on 30 November 1984.

I/We agree to accept the same or any smaller number of Participating Shares in respect of which this application may be accepted.

I/We hereby declare that I/we am/are not resident in Guernsey, Alderney or Herm for the purposes of liability to Guernsey income tax and that I/we am/are not applying for Participating Shares as nominee for or on behalf of any person(s) who is/are so resident.

I/We hereby declare that I am not/none of us is a US person as defined in the prospectus of the Fund dated 20 November 1984 and that, upon the registration of the Participating Shares hereby applied for in my/our name(s) (or in any other name(s) in which I/we may request, no US person (as so defined), will be interested in such Shares, and that I am/none of us is acquiring these Shares for the purpose of re-sale to a US person (as so defined).

Full name of applicant

Please write in block capitals

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Signature

Date

Joint applicants (if any)

Full name of applicant

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Signature

Date

Full name of applicant

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Signature

Date

Full name of applicant

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address

Signature

Date

Name and address for registration

Please complete only if Shares are to be registered in name of nominee. Please write in block capitals

Signature

Date

All communications will be sent to the first-named registered owner.

A corporation should affix its common seal or execute under the hand of a duly authorised official who should state his representative capacity. Note: All joint applicants must sign this application form.

Liverpool freepoint set to open

By Judith Huntley

Liverpool's 600-acre freepoint which claims to be the only dockside venture of the six UK freepoints, will be opened by Princess Anne next Thursday. It has been developed on land owned by the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company.

The company has selected Arrowcroft, the London developer, to build an 11-acre freepoint park on the site in a joint venture. Arrowcroft will develop up to 140,000 sq ft of space for owner occupiers on the site, at the entrance to the Royal Seaforth Dock.

The project will give the Dock's Harbour Company a share of land sales profits or ground rents from lettings but will not involve Arrowcroft in speculative development.

Companies taking space in the freepoint will benefit from freedom from customs duties, value added tax and EEC levies, and be eligible for regional aid from the Government.

Sykes Waterhouse, the Liverpool estate agents is letting the freepoint park and is acting on Albert Dock.

British Assets gives GBC terms

British Assets Trust yesterday announced the terms of its proposal, made at the end of last month to offer part of the company's holding in GBC Capital, the Canadian trust which concentrates on American technology stocks, to shareholders by way of a rights issue.

It is offering 9.6 million units of GBC at 99p consisting of 1 GBC common share and 1 warrant, which carries the right to subscribe for a common share at any time up to September 1, 1990 for Can \$1.78 (£1.09).

The offer comprises 13.2 per cent of the common shares and 65.9 per cent of the warrants to be issued. The offer is not underwritten, but some institutional shareholders of British Assets Trust have agreed to take up their entitlement and submit excess applications for the total number of units offered.

British Assets shares rose 2p to 182p.

In brief

● **M K ELECTRIC GROUP:** Half-year to Sept. 29. Interim 3.4p (3.3p). Figs in millions of pounds. Turnover 62 (56.9). Pretax profit 8.2 (7.6).

● **BULMER & LUMB (HOLDINGS):** Interim div. 1.65p (1.63p) for half-year to Sept. 30. Figs. in 2000.

Turnover 16,464 (16,912). Trading profit 799 (753). Interest received 3 (nil). Interest payable 79 (73). Dpen. 195 (174). Pretax profit 528 (506). Tax 166 (178). Earnings per share 4.20p (3.50p).

● **RENOLO:** The directors believe that, with the completion of the restructuring of the manufacturing facilities and the improvement in the group's trading performance, it is now appropriate to reorganize the share capital and reserves. The reorganization will eliminate the share deficit on distributable reserves which prohibits Renolo from paying dividends.

● **ASSOC. HEAT SERVICES:** Half-year to Sept. 29. Interim 3.3p (same). Figs. in 2000. Turnover 16,528 (15,146). Pretax profit 1,302 (1,066). Tax 386 (833). EPS 8.95p (9.63p).

● **HIGHLANDS AND LOWLAND:** Has received a notice of takeover from Kumbakon Guitrie, involving the making of offers to acquire all the remaining and fully paid-up ordinary shares of H and L amounting to 150.86 million shares at 2.70 Malaysian dollars per share in cash.

● **RTD GROUP:** Half-year to Aug. 25. No interim (nil). Figs. in 2000. Turnover 3,440 (3,076). Profit before exceptional items and tax, 3 (53) loss.

● **LONDON AND MIDLAND INDUSTRIALS:** Half-year to Sept. 30. Interim 4.25p (3.5p). Figs. in 2000. Turnover 4,609 (35,272). Pretax profit 3,723 (2,209). The board reports that the group is well placed for further expansion and development and it looks to the future with confidence.

● **H. YOUNG:** is to dispose of its Puttick's offshoot. This would have the effect of improving the liquidity of the Young group by £12.9 million.

● **LRC INTERNATIONAL:** Interim Div. 1.3p (1.15p). on increased capital, for half-year to Sept. 30. Figs. in £1000. Turnover 88,091 (88,170). Pretax profit 7,879 (7,034). After interest 1,132 (1,161). Tax 3,159 (2,675). EPS 4.75p (4.39p).

● **BERKLEY & HAY HILL INV:** In a circular to shareholders,

detailing the acquisition of Fitzgerald Enterprises and the proposed rights issue to raise £1.72m, the board states that, over the last three months of this year, the company has lost on ordinary activities of £47,000 and management budgets suggest that, ignoring any effects of the proposals described, ordinary trading for the whole year will result in an aggregate loss of about £250,000.

● **WATERFORD GLASS GROUP:** Has announced the retirement of Mr Bernard J. Fitzpatrick, founder director of Waterford Crystal, and Mr Charles Sack, the company's founder technical director, and Mr Cornelius Dooley, its former sales director.

● **GR HOLDINGS:** Year to June 30. Find div. 5.4p (5.4p). MKG. 7p (7p). Figs. in 2000. Group turnover 24,785 (22,490). Pretax profit 1,711 (1,721). Tax 573 (401). ESP 24.2p (27.9p).

● **CVD based in Woburn, Massachusetts:** has received a \$500,000 (£394,000) contract from Hughes Aircraft for the design, test and evaluation of a high-volume infra-red dome manufacturing system. The system will be completed by next March and will allow high-volume production of CVD zinc sulphide dome blanks to support Hughes' IR Maverick missile programme.

● **MURRAY GROWTH TRUST:** Total dividend 1.4p (same) for year to Sept 30. Int. 0.4p (same) for the current year. (Figs. in 2000). Revenue 6,732 (6,051). Pretax revenue 3,225 (3,158).

● **R SMALLSHAW (KNITWEAR):** Six months to June 30. Interim 0.75p (0.5p). Figs. in 2000. Turnover 4,340 (3,540). Pretax profit 150 (85). The second half should see further improvement, the board reports.

● **GLOBAL RECOVERY INVESTMENT TRUST:** Six months to Sept 30. Interim 0.75p (same). The board intends that a final of not less than last year's 1.5p will be paid for the full year. (Figs. in 2000). Pretax profit 176 (181).

● **HAZLEWOOD FOODS:** Half-year to Sept. 30. Interim 5.5p (4.75p). Figs. in 2000. Turnover 26,401 (18,283). Pretax profit 2,126 (1,061). The board has conditionally agreed to acquire Knights European Food Group. The total consideration is spread over three years and is to be dependent on pretax profits for the periods ending Sept. 30, 1987.

● **GOOD RELATIONS GROUP:** Has brought Paul Winner Marketing Communications for £810,000. Further consideration is payable in cash dependent on profits before tax for 1984 on the basis of an additional £1 for every £1 of profits before tax over £132,000. If profits are less than £132,000, the shortfall will be repaid to GRG.

● **GARTMORE AMERICAN SEC:** Results for six months to September 30. Interim 0.4p (same). The board intends that the level of dividend will be maintained in the year to March 31, 1985. Net asset value per share 137.2p (122.6p). North American equities now represent 55.1 per cent of the assets of the Trust and US bonds represent a further 9.3 per cent, so that the total North American representation is now 64.4 per cent.

● **NEW COURT TRUST:** Final results for the year to August 31. Dividend 10.125p (9.625p) making 14.25p (13.75p). Group revenue £753,996 (£719,703) after all charges including tax £327,436 (£275,891). Earnings per share 15.08p (14.39p). Net asset value per ordinary share 432p (395p).

● **FASHION AND GENERAL INVESTMENT:** Final 4.4p making 9.4p (12p) for the year to March 31. Income from fixed asset investments £269,976 (£174,271). Net interest received £12,450 (£12,924). Other operating income £20,767 (£4,930). Administration expenses £87,593 (£41,992). Pretax revenue £223,600 (£239,453). Tax £32,653 (£148,034). Earnings per ordinary share 9.5p (12.1p).

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detailing the acquisition of Fitzgerald Enterprises and the proposed rights issue to raise £1.72m, the board states that, over the last three months of this year, the company has lost on ordinary activities of £47,000 and management budgets suggest that, ignoring any effects of the proposals described, ordinary trading for the whole year will result in an aggregate loss of about £250,000.

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● **BERKLEY & HAY HILL INV:** In a circular to shareholders,

MONEY MARKETS

The Bank of England continued to keep the money markets on tenterhooks yesterday over the timing of the next base rate cut.

Some traders believe they may now have to wait until the next set of money supply figures, early next month. Others still cling to the view that 9 3/4 per cent base rates will be here by the end of this week or early next week.

There was some disappointment that the Bank made no signal yesterday. It had seemed an opportune occasion, with a £650 million shortage (revised from initial £700 million forecast) to avoid adding to the mountain of eligible paper not tied up in "repos" at the bank (now almost £5 billion).

Meanwhile, discount houses took money at 9 3/4 per cent, down to 9 1/4 per cent, in the morning, found the occasional balance as cheaply in the afternoon.

Clearing Bank Rate 10 1/4

Overnight 9 3/4 - 9 1/4 Low 8

Week Forward 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

3 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

6 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

12 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

18 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

24 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

36 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

48 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

60 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

72 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

84 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

96 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

108 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

120 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

132 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

144 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

156 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

168 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

180 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

192 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

204 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

216 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

228 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

240 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

252 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

264 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

276 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

288 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

300 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

312 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

324 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

336 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

348 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

360 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

372 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

384 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

396 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

408 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

420 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

432 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

444 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

456 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

468 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

480 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

492 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

504 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

516 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

528 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

540 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

552 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

564 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

576 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

588 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

600 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

612 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

624 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

636 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

648 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

660 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

672 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

684 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

696 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

708 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

720 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

732 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

744 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

756 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

768 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

780 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

792 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

804 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

816 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

828 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

840 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

852 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

864 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

876 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

888 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

900 months 9 1/4 - 9 3/4

WALL STREET

New York, (Reuters) - Wall Street stock prices moved lower yesterday in the first hour of trading after opening mixed.

The Dow Jones industrial

average was down almost three points at 1192. In the overall market, losing issues led gains by six to four on a volume of about 19 million shares.

The Dow Jones industrial shares.					
	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
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AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
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AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
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AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
AMC Inc.	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
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Computers for Christmas

A computer is a suitable Christmas gift only if carefully chosen for the right purpose - we look at the possibilities

Christmas is more a Celtic festival than a Christian one for the makers of home computers. It begins 10 days in advance of St Nicholas' Day and continues for another 30 afterwards.

Christmas 1984 threatens to assume an unwanted significance. The accepted pattern is that microcomputer sales build up through late November and December, to be followed by an orgy of spending on the programs that will breathe life into the objects of the pre-Christmas sales boom. But this year Madison Avenue is locking horns with Jacob Marley, and the prize is the credibility of the home microcomputer.

Superficially the auguries are good. Retailers are expecting unprecedented levels of consumer spending, despite a slackening of trade in the autumn. But for the computer makers doubt has intruded.

Three factors have induced this crisis of confidence. The high degree of competition causes the manufacturers to eye one another warily; the prospect of additional competition causes them to look over their shoulders, principally in the direction of the Rising Sun; but the chief source of dread, and the factor most likely to bring about change, is the growing suspicion that their products are essentially useless. This may be termed the Skateboard Syndrome.

A single statistic will serve to illustrate these three virilising ingredients at once. Three months ago a research group called AGB Home Audit discovered that sales of home microcomputers had fallen by 30 per cent over the summer.

Hitherto, the market had been assumed to be beset represented by a steeply rising sales curve. Competition had been accepted as a fact of life, but in a shrinking market it is apt to be lethal. Several manufacturers promptly dropped out. The subsequent posturings of the market leaders, Sinclair Research and Commodore, made the conundrums of Set and Horus look

like an end-of-the-pier show. At the same time companies began to display uncharacteristic carelessness in talking about their plans for the forthcoming year, as though the existence of a future for the companies. It may be recalled that General Trochu's plan to raise the siege of Paris in 1870 led eventually to the destruction of most of the city.

The spectre of Japan, meanwhile, has loomed ever larger. An alliance of Japanese computer makers and an American software company created the MSX standard, an attempt to produce different micros capable of using the same ancillary equipment and the same software. MSX has been heartily slated by most United Kingdom manufacturers; Sir Clive Sinclair, as openly abusive as is seemly for a knight, has been particularly critical, and indeed MSX is a standard bearer for yesterday's technology.

But the leverage of such companies as Toshiba, Sony, JVC and others in retail outlets not available to native computer makers has engendered great anxiety. The progress so far of MSX has been pedestrian - more the steady engulfing of a coastline by spear grass than the apocalyptic thunder of an invasion. But MSX micros are in the United Kingdom this Christmas and software companies are making them welcome with products adapted or written afresh to run on them. They aren't likely to go

away. From the point of view of buyers, a reliable standard has much to recommend it.

But the Skateboard Syndrome is potentially the most disruptive factor as the micro makers look towards 1985. AGB Home Audit's research revealed that as sales of micros were falling, the trade in BMX bikes rose by 76 per cent. For BMX bikes it may be reasonable to substitute a number of different fads from various years, the point is that home microcomputers as consumer goods are vulnerable of fashion.

The software companies realized this first. Last year's post-Christmas boom failed to materialize for them and a number have gone to the wall as a result. The survivors have discovered software piracy, which is said to cost them £100 million a year. The possibility that people simply declined to spend money on the derivative games and crash diversions that they offered seems not to have occurred to them.

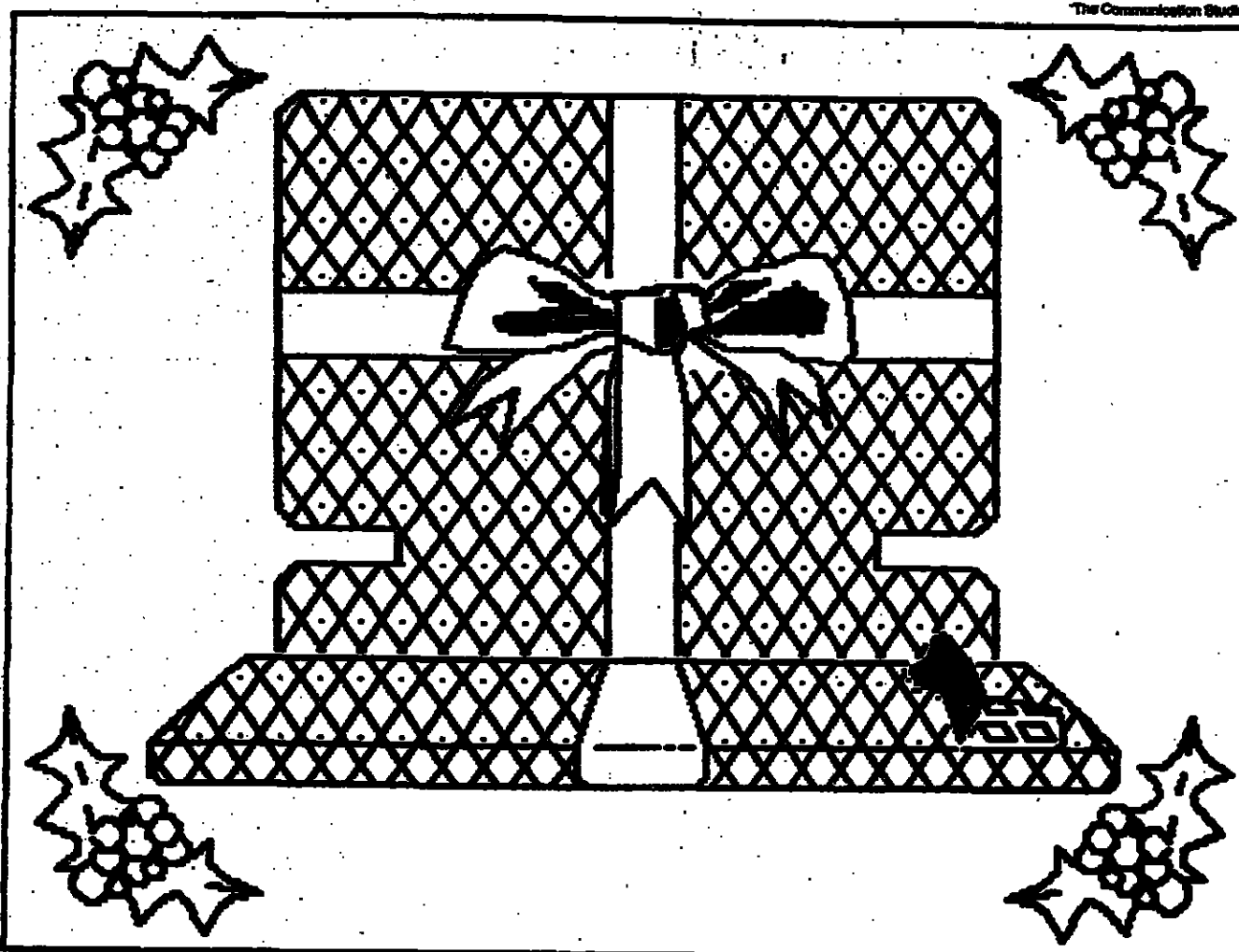
But elsewhere the idea of useful home computing is

gaining ground. If a micro is no more than a toy, it may enjoy a week's popularity before it is thrust to the back of the drawer; if, on the other hand, it can be used to some purpose the computer (and, of course, its manufacturer) can look forward to years of mellow fruitfulness.

Many manufacturers are currently addressing themselves to this question of utility. Some are hedging their bets at the same time by developing microcomputers for business use, but if that sustains them who will carp?

There are several approaches to the problem. One is to extend the scope of the micro: this means facilitating communication with other systems, for example videodata information services, or improving its technological capacity, as in the provision of links to video recorders to manipulate images, or increasing the speed and capacity of the system itself.

Alternatively the role of the micro can be changed. By means of what are called interfaces (as good as any for a tangle of circuitry) the micro can become a central control system for domestic tasks - operating the central system, turning on lights, monitoring sensory equipment that responds to burglars, fire and the like.



The third possibility lies in the nature of software. Too much software to date has been one-dimensional; games in particular can be categorized all too easily under well-recognized

headings. It would be a pity if games were discarded altogether, but program producers show an encouraging tendency to produce more demanding material.

The future for home microcomputers rests with the manufacturers of hardware and software. If they can strike a balance that will attract and hold the interest of consumers

the market will move forward. If not, they might as well re-tool and wait for a resurgence of interest in hoopla-hoops.

David Guest

The 10 ways to win the game

Computer games don't necessarily make a lot of sense. Titles such as TIL, Psytron, Frak and Zaxxon seem pretty meaningless - but they still have the power to prompt the "gimme" reflex.

● Rule 1. Make sure your machine's name is on the box. In the rush to get Christmas shopping done, it is quite easy to forget that you not only have to look for the "Micro Olympics" game but that you also have to make sure it also says Commodore 64, Sinclair Spectrum, BBC Micro or whatever machine it is that you have. A BBC micro version of a given game, for example, will not work with a 64 or a Spectrum. It seems pretty obvious, but it's amazing what you can forget when you're in a hurry.

● Rule 2. Check the game format before you buy - there are three ways to buy a game: on cassette, disc or cartridge. The vast majority of home

riddles, to the "arcade" game, which represents the more traditional computer "shoot-em-up". Young children often cannot handle the complexity of something like an adventure, while the older ones can get bored by arcade games. All computer games were not created equal - make sure you know what your children want.

● Rule 6. - Do not pay more than you have to. Cassette-based computer games generally cost between £5 and £10, though the odd adventure game has been known to creep up toward £15. Cartridge games should set you back anywhere between £10 and £20 - depending on which machine they are developed to run on. Disk-based games will cost anywhere between £10 and £50 (though the latter price tag is usually found on flight simulators and highly complex adventures - most will be closer to the £25 mark).



Starting young at the computer game

Pictures by Mike Abramson

computers will only take games on cassette. Before you go shopping check whether your computer has a disc drive or a cartridge plug-in. If it doesn't, you'll definitely be stuck with cassette-type games. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, as cassettes are generally much cheaper than discs or cartridges - though they take longer to load.

● Rule 3. Make sure you've got what you need - it's no use, for example, getting a Commodore 64 game for your child if it requires a joystick and you don't have one. Some games offer a choice between using a joystick or using the keyboard, while others require you to have the joystick. Joysticks aren't expensive (from £5 and up) but they are often a requirement for good gaming.

● Rule 4. Take care with "listings" books. An inexpensive alternative to buying pre-packaged computer games is to get a book with lists of game programs that your child can type into the computer. But if you take this route, make sure the listings are clear and easy to read. Ambiguity is so much as a comma or semi-colon could mean the difference between whether a program works.

● Rule 5. Get a clear idea from your children about the types of games they want. It may seem needlessly complex, but there are a variety of computer-game types ranging from the "adventure" game, where the player becomes a character in an adventure and has to type word-commands into the computer and solve

● Rule 7. - Make sure you can exchange games which do not load, there is nothing more disappointing than giving a present that does not work. If possible try the game before wrapping it and putting it under the tree. If it repeatedly fails to load, take the game back to the store and ask for another copy.

● Rule 8. Do not be fooled by the illustration on the cassette box. Many mediocre software houses get round the problem of selling mediocre games by putting beautiful illustrations on the outside. The actual on-screen game often differs markedly from the picture used to sell it. Ask if you can see the game - or at least a photograph of it in action - before you put your money down.

● Rule 9. Do not be afraid of getting a game that seems too difficult - a good computer game should constantly challenge the player and offer a further level of difficulty as soon as the current one is mastered. If you get the high-score while trying the game out in the store, then your child will probably master it (and then get bored with it) in a few hours.

● Rule 10. Beware of dumping. Many computer software companies are having a tough time and hope they will survive by putting cheap products on the market this Christmas. These games may be imitations of last year's successes or reinterpretations of game "classics" such as Pacman or Space Invaders. Some are good, some are not. The best way to check is by playing the games.

Geoff Wheelwright

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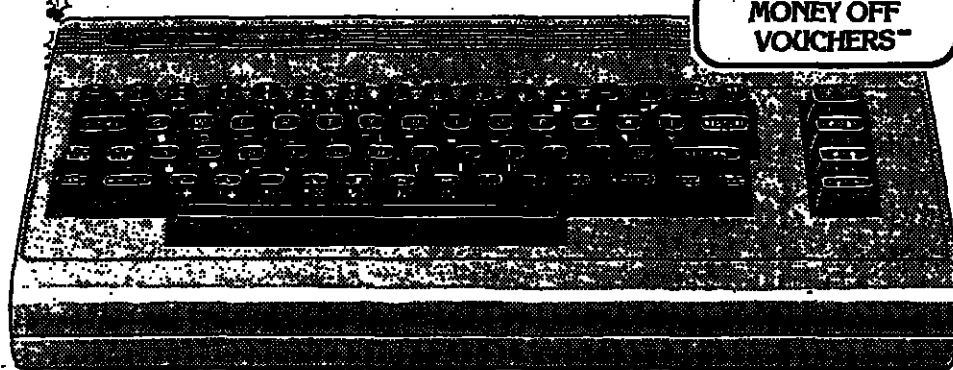
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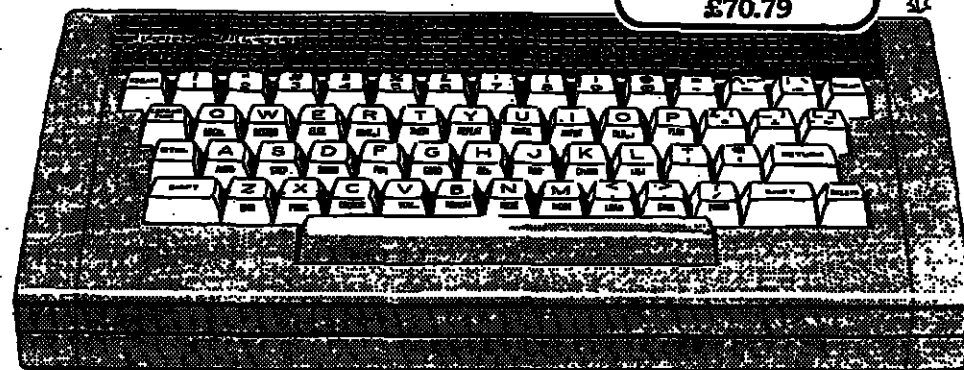
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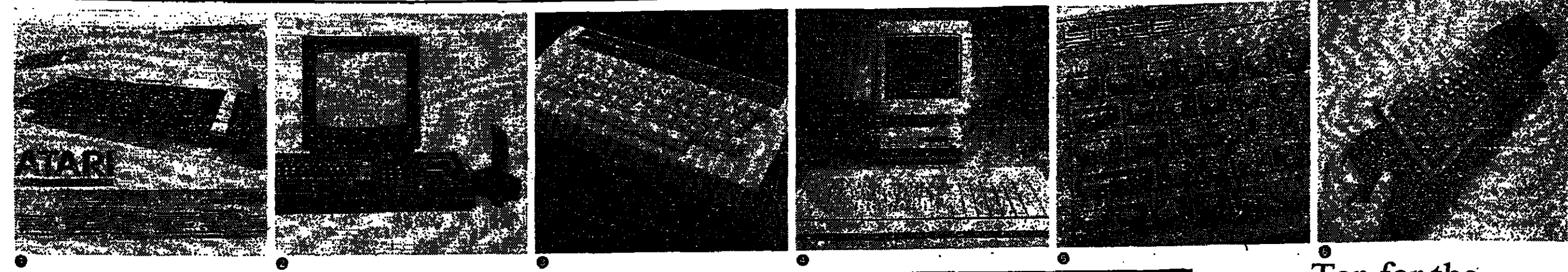
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COMPUTERS FOR CHRISTMAS



Why choosing British can still be best

The decision to buy a home computer is a tricky and potentially expensive matter, especially since one of the most frequently-heard reasons for the purchase is that it will enable the buyer to learn about computers. The micro is the only item of consumer electronics which is bought by people who don't really know what it will do.

In one way the choice has become easier over the last year, with many manufacturers either folding or withdrawing from the home computer market in search of more profitable pastures. If the maker of your micro collapses it's much more serious than the manufacturer of the microwave oven or the television set vanishing.

Not only are you likely to be left without technical support if the machine goes wrong, but the whole infrastructure supporting users of that machine will disappear. No new books, magazines or programs will be available and that is the worst thing that can happen to the typical home micro user. Any make of television can receive BBC1 and ITV, but programs for one type of computer are often useless for any other type. No matter what its technical merits, a popular, widely-used

computer is a better bet than one which is obscure or nearing the end of its life, especially for a first-time buyer.

The leading contenders for the cash of the micro buyer this Christmas come from four main stables. Two of these, Sinclair Research and Acorn, are British.

The Acorn BBC Micro and Electron are similar in general character, the Electron being a cut-down version of the rather expensive BBC Micro. Both computers are wearing well, despite a shortage of memory compared with more modern rivals. The BBC Micro's widespread adoption by schools should ensure that it is favoured by software suppliers for some time to come. At £400 it is at the top of the price scale for home computers but it can be expanded to cope with more serious applications.

Serious applications are the forte of another high-priced British home micro, the Sinclair QL. It had a bad press early in its life because early production models were unreliable and performed badly. Now that it is available in the shops, not just by mail order, it is possible to see exactly what is on offer before you part with your money.

Four serious business-style programs are supplied free on microdrive cartridge (word processing, spreadsheet, data-



On screen for education: but which of the bewilderingly large variety of computers is right for your child?

base manager and business graphics), and they are the best available to users of £400 computers.

The QL is unique among home micros in dispensing with audio cassettes as a storage medium for programs and data.

Two microdrives are built into the machine and provide much faster storage than cassette tape can offer. Two potential snags blunt the QL's appeal slightly. The printer interface is the RS-232 serial type, not the more common Centronics parallel

type, so in order to produce hard copy from your word processor or spreadsheet, you have to buy either an RS-232 printer or a device which converts the output.

There is little software for the machine yet, largely because its central processor chip is one which has not been used in this class of computer before. Games players should look elsewhere.

Sinclair's other computer, the Spectrum, is the antithesis of the QL. It is completely unsuitable for serious use, but is excellent for games. It is one of the cheapest popular micros at less than £130, with a recently released £170 cousin which sports a superior keyboard. The Spectrum's other claim to fame is the extraordinary number of programming languages which have become available for it. This makes it a good choice for learning about computers.

The main established rival to Acorn and Sinclair is Commodore, a US company which is living proof that widespread availability, keen pricing and heavy promotion are better than technical innovation for generating sales.

Its most popular home computer is the Commodore 64, which is supported by a range of games and educational software similar to that of the Spectrum. Despite the need for Commodore's own-brand cassette re-

corder (£39) it is good value for money at about £200. One problem is that the C64 is rather idiosyncratic when it comes to adding peripherals such as disc drives and printers, and Commodore's own units are not especially good.

The C64 is rather difficult to program for beginners and the manual is unhelpful, but many independent books and magazines fill the gap.

A family of Japanese computers, new since last Christmas, goes under the generic title of MSX. These share a common hardware and software specification, so there isn't much to choose between them and they represent the Japanese consumer electronics giants' attempt to break into the top end of the home computer market with a machine which can be upgraded to perform the same tasks as simple business systems. Since they all run the same software they offer an attractive market to programmers and lots of software is already on sale.

The expansion possibilities for MSX machines are good, and a considerable bandwagon effect has become noticeable with books and magazines such as Haymarket's *MSX Computing* appearing to help inexperienced users.

Simon Craven

Ten for the stocking list

1. **Atari 800XL.** Having developed out of the video games field, Atari micros are a good choice if your primary reason for owning a computer is to play games. Many home micros end up being used to play games although original intentions may have been more grand. However, both the Atari's current offerings - the 800XL (at £160) and the 800XL (£200) - are superficial redesigns of earlier models and compare badly with some newer competitors if you want more ambitious users.

2. **Amstrad CPC464.** An impressive newcomer with a good keyboard, graphics and the ability to run some business software, Amstrad has followed the principle it established in the hi-fi market by supplying a complete system with built-in cassette deck and choice of colour or mono monitor. But if you are happy to use your own television and cassette recorder, you may not want to have to play for the extras. Prices are £230 for the mono system, £330 for the colour.

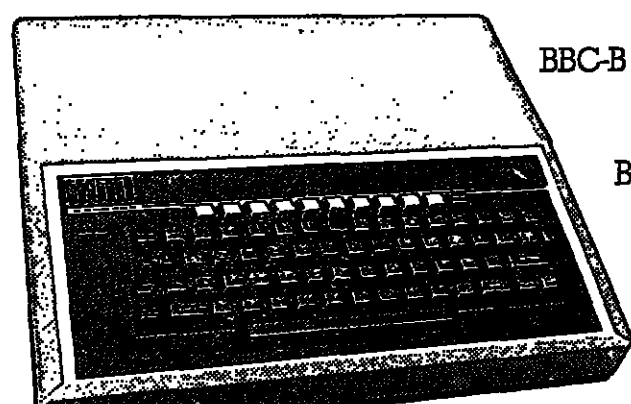
3. **Acorn Electron.** Widely pushed as the ideal home micro for older children because it uses the BBC Basic programming language employed extensively in schools, it is effectively a scaled-down version of the BBC computer at half the price and is good for both programming and education. A slight drawback is the need to buy an extra unit before disc drives of printers can be connected. Competitively priced at £200, the Electron was the micro everyone

wanted to buy last Christmas and could not because limited supplies were available.

4. **ACT, Apricot F1.** If you want to use it for proper word-processing, running small-business accounts or a mailing list, the ACT's F1 or the Apricot F1 provide a cheaper start than most business computers. Both offer so-called economy versions the F1e and the F1e, with smaller storage capacities. Price: around £1,000, for business use a printer is needed (extra £200-plus).

5. **Sinclair Spectrum.** This vies with the Commodore 64 as the bestselling home micro. At £130 it provides one of the cheapest starts to home computing. A major drawback is the rubber keyboard, which is slow and clumsy to use. But in recognition of the Sinclair has recently announced a Spectrum Plus model with a proper keyboard - at an extra £50.

6. **Sinclair Quantum Leap.** Despite the anything but modest name Sinclair's QL has an outstanding technical specification for its price of £400. Suffering from embarrassing delays it has never been quite clear at whom it is aimed. It comes with four good-quality business-like programs, but it also uses microdrives - a high speed tape system - that some owners have found to be unreliable. It is probably best left for the enthusiast who understands enough to exploit its strong technical advantages.



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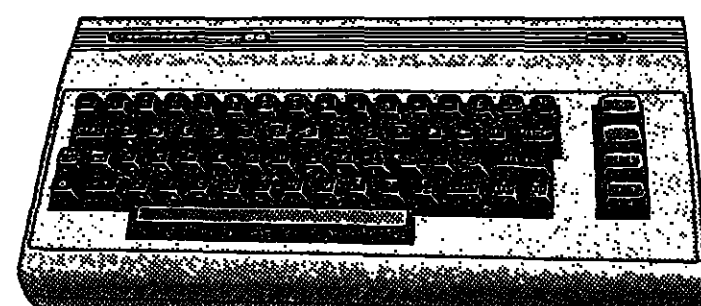


Acorn Electron £199.00

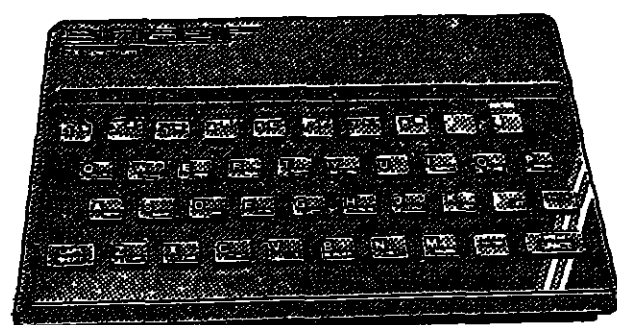
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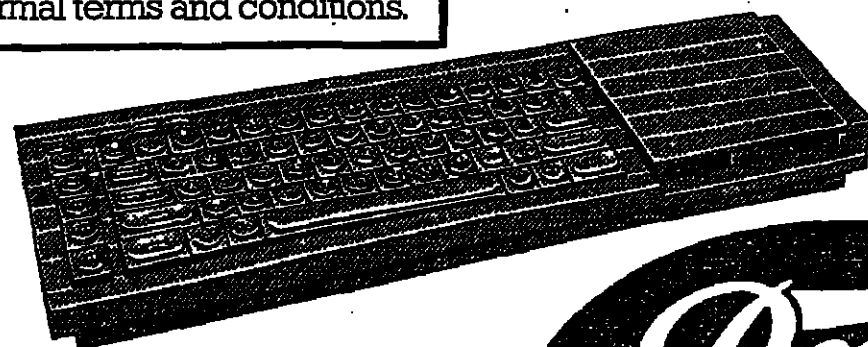
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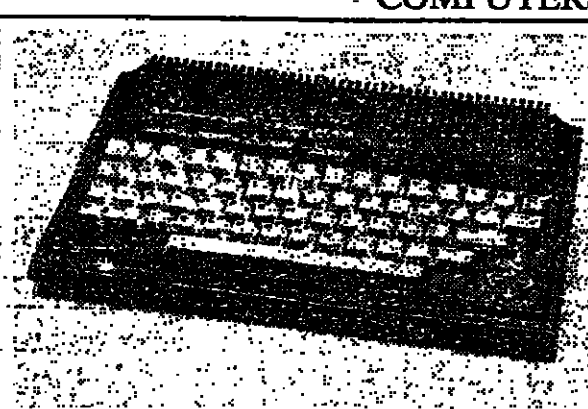
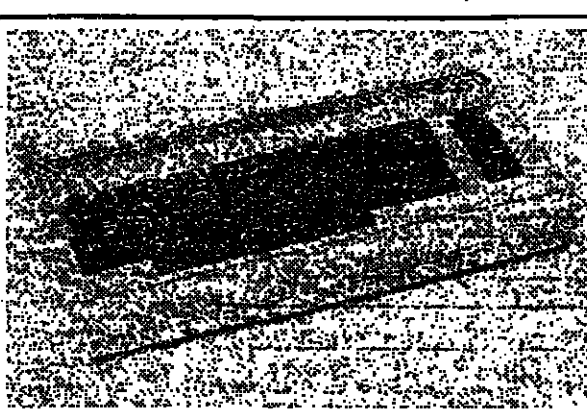
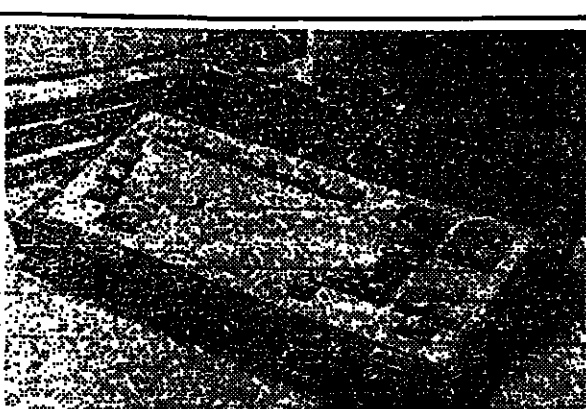
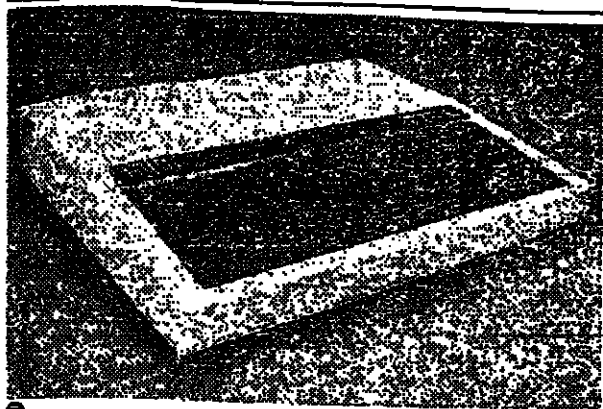
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Beware the red herrings

Continued from previous page
figuratively dismantled, and understood.

This is at a general level. The detail introduces the concepts of programming. Programming requires a discipline that is not easily taught but that, once acquired, can be applied to other activities. In one sense it is a skill but in another it is an awareness of possibilities, a kind of coded lateral thinking.

Commercial programs provide another possible source of benefit. Their quality - as programs and as tuition - varies widely. Some games have strong educational possibilities, and some educational software wouldn't pass muster as games. But the quality is improving and prices are continuing to fall.

The first attempts to write educational programs were, in general, failures, they echoed too closely the learning by rote approach that is losing its place in classrooms. Increasingly, software producers are using the capabilities of the computer to create a distinct style of teaching.

The dividing line between games and educational programs is already blurred, and the trend in software promises to erase it altogether. Hardware and software manufacturers seem to realize that their days are numbered unless they go beyond repetitive and uninspiring games. Their understandable self-interest could prove to be the source of products that will underline the lasting value of home computers.

David Guest

My hit and myth guide to the front room wiz

Nice things, home computers. I owned one myself once. The trouble is that for all their clever little tricks

a home computer remains a box full of electronic wizardry designed for the domestic front room, and even worse, for the domestic television set.

Some computer manufacturers continue to plug the line that it is possible to start off a basic machine designed for playing Shoot-the-Space-Monster and then, when you've decided you like the chip idea after all, upgrade into a compact NASA control console which fits underneath the video. I have to tell you, with a considerable measure of regret, that it ain't necessarily so.

I used to own a Commodore 64 and happily wrote more than 100,000 words on that before moving up to my present Apricot PC. Now that I've passed that barrier, I have to say that nothing could drag me back on to a home machine. Buy one of the things for your children by all means. And there is no doubt that many domestic machines can keep household

And finally, what I think is the most important point. Home machines work to their own standards - become proficient on one and, when you move on to a different type, you're forced to start from the beginning.

If time-saving is what you're after - and that's what most computer users want above everything else - there is nothing more frustrating than having to spend hours or days learning a new type of software.

On my Apricot I can run standard software packages such as Wordstar, which are available for every other machine I'm likely to touch, and swap data from my own desk to others without complex problems of compatibility. A further disadvantage for most home machines is the fact that they are designed to be used with low-resolution domestic television screens. That gives them a mere 40 characters across the screen compared to a proper computer's 80. It may sound like a technical consideration, but in practice the result is hellish. Put plainly, it means that if you write a letter on a 40-column screen you have to go through a tortuous process to find out what it will look like when it is printed.



Young faces and close attention at Selfridges

accounts in tip-top condition. But if you seriously think that you can pop into your nearest High Street store and pick up something that will keep the kids amused and double as an office computer, forget it. There is still an enormous divide between what is designed for the home and what is designed for the office.

This is a great shame. I've seen software around for home machines, from the Spectrum to the Commodore, which makes a passable attempt to imitate the best professional packages, which themselves cost more than most small domestic computers. Why don't they work? In a way they do. It's just that home computers aren't really designed to be genuine rivals to their big office brothers. To begin with, many home computers have poor keyboards. They may be fine for playing games or typing in short programs, but try to enter accurately a long article or series of financial statistics and you're in trouble.

Secondly, the storage facilities for home machines tend to be either dreadfully slow and unreliable or ridiculously expensive. People have a strange habit of adding on peripherals such as disc interfaces and drives to their machines without calculating the whole cost. Do that with some BBC B systems and you end up with an outfit which costs more than a real professional computer setup and is capable of half as much. Without good, fast, reliable storage on disc no computer can perform complex functions properly with the speed one has the right to expect.

David Hewson

There are three possible uses of a computer in the home. You can play games, you can learn computer programming, or - if you're willing to spend at least £700 - you can carry out the functions of a miniature office.

Children struggling to do well at Computer Studies (a school subject which, like many others, is important because exams are important, not for any relevance to the wide world), are indeed likely to benefit from a micro at home; and if they don't, they'll certainly enjoy the games.

Fond parents should recall, however, that a computer for Christmas is no more guaranteed to awaken hidden talent than would a violin.

Which brings us to the micro as a home business aid.

Briefly, unless you're already using a card index system at home, or working on complex accounts, or writing - say - two thousand words of text a week, then it's unlikely that a computer will serve any purpose.

If you do have an appropriate task for a micro, then the ideal system would feature a monitor, a keyboard of electric typewriter

Before you choose your software

quality, two floppy discs and at least 128K RAM. Such a system will cost £1,200 and upwards, and would normally also include the basic business software packages of word processor, database (an electric card index system) and spreadsheet.

To produce hard copies you'll also need to spend at least £250 on a printer.

However, compromises are possible. Systems supplied without a visual display unit can often be connected to a domestic television, saving at least £100 on a monochrome monitor - though running business software on a low resolution display is a recipe for eye strain.

The twin disc drive configuration is useful for separating the application software disc from the data disc (the word processor, for example, from the text being composed), but it is possible - though inconvenient -

to swap application disc and data discs in the same drive. Some hardy souls, in fact, even manage to employ a cassette player as their immensely slow equivalent of a disc drive, though this is not to be recommended.

The most flexible configuration of all is the quantity of available RAM. All that matters, of course, is that there is sufficient memory to enter for your particular application. The dictum of "First identify your task, then choose your software, and finally pick your computer" is often misleading, but certainly applies here.

You can even dispense with the printer. A word processor is so convenient that some users are prepared to compose text on the computer and turn out their final hard copy with a typewriter.

To learn the basics of computer programming you can

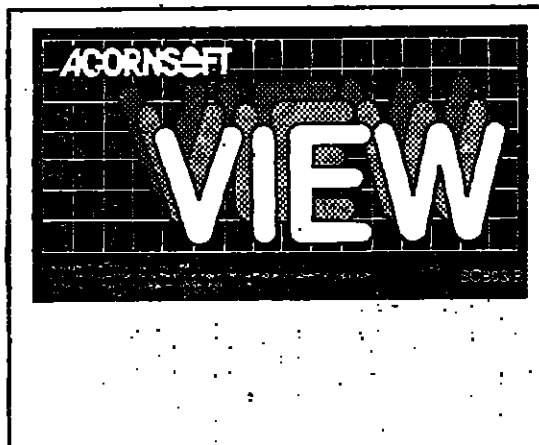
manage with the basic computer. Sinclair's ZX81 gives you a membrane keyboard, a monochrome monitor and costs £45. To learn computer programming and play games, the Sinclair Spectrum will cost £99 or £130 - depending on memory size. The £99 Atari 600XL offers a superb keyboard and occasionally expensive software.

For £180 the Spectrum + (or a Spectrum with a £50 keyboard upgrade) can be combined with a £99 microdrive kit - a poor man's disc drive substitute, sold with some useful software - to produce the rock bottom business system.

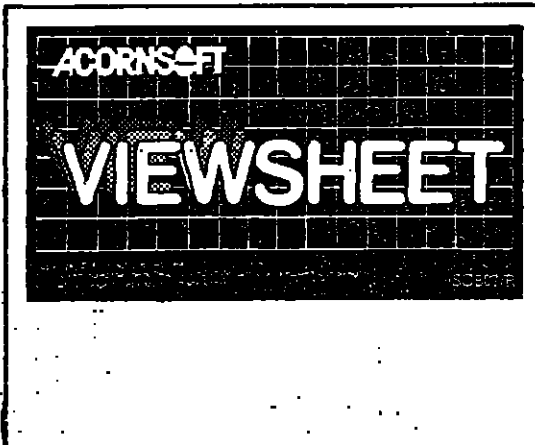
The Commodore 64 is worth a look, and if you want to get more serious, Sinclair is beginning to sort out its £399 QL, and the £429 Amstrad includes a disc drive and monochrome monitor, though - like the £399 BBC Micro - it suffers from limited memory.

Beyond this point lie the true business systems. Remember the importance of two disc drives and the extra expense of a printer - especially when confronted with the seductive Apple Macintosh!

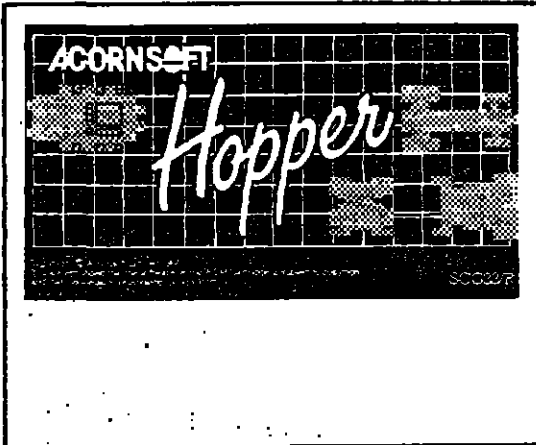
Sid Smith



View ROM Word processor software. Normal price £59.95.

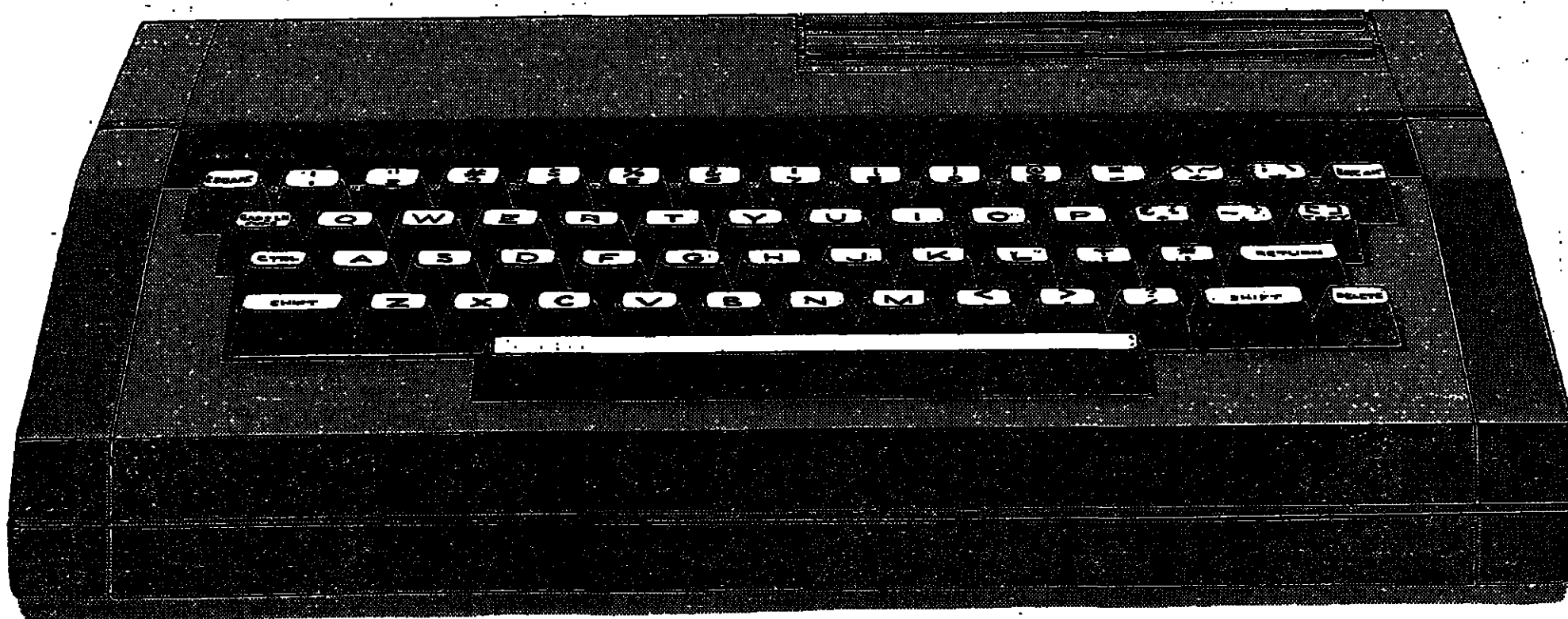


Viewsheets ROM Spreadsheet software. 255 columns by 255 rows. Normal price £59.95.



Games ROM The exciting Arcade game, Hopper. Normal price £14.95.

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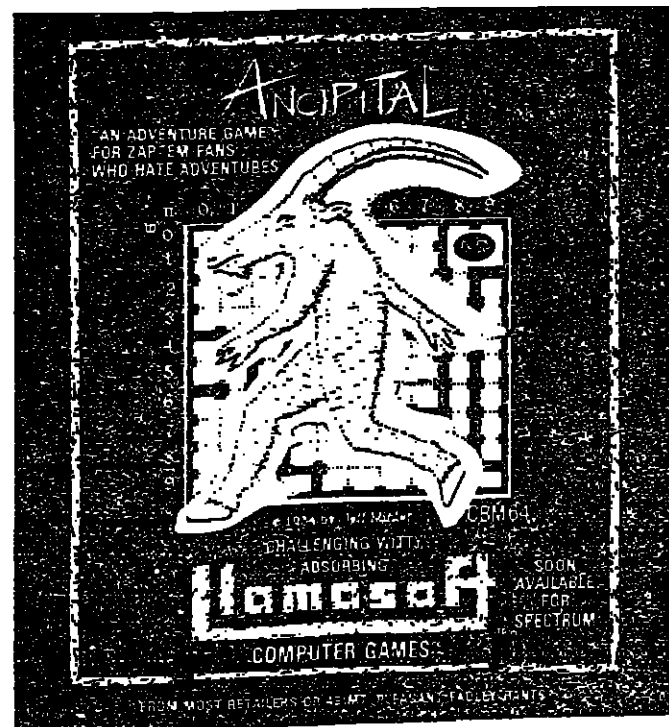


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No.	Company	1984 High	1984 Low	Company	1984 High	1984 Low
1	INDUSTRIALS-Z			1	INDUSTRIALS-Z	
2	Siemens			2	Siemens	
3	Wadsworth			3	Wadsworth	
4	Wadsworth			4	Wadsworth	
5	Wadsworth			5	Wadsworth	
6	Wadsworth			6	Wadsworth	
7	T.N.T.			7	T.N.T.	
8	Smiths Ind.			8	Smiths Ind.	
9	Tridinger House			9	Tridinger House	
10	Willis (James)			10	Willis (James)	
11	INDUSTRIALS-L			11	INDUSTRIALS-L	
12	Loe & Noh			12	Loe & Noh	
13	Marshall Univ.			13	Marshall Univ.	
14	R.H.P.			14	R.H.P.	
15	Metal Box			15	Metal Box	
16	M.C.Y. East			16	M.C.Y. East	
17	Radcliff			17	Radcliff	
18	Philips			18	Philips	
19	L.D.H.			19	L.D.H.	
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares recover

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 12. Dealings End, Nov 23. Contango Day, Nov 26. Settlement Day, Dec 3.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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100	90	British Steel	100	+1.0	10.0	10.0
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You now have the opportunity of combining your abilities and experience to help develop a profitable business by controlling an important function within our organisation. Our small Mayfair based recruitment consultancy is part of an international group headquartered in Paris. We need a smart young secretary who is used to all mod cons and, because we do not, speaks French fluently. The work is hard but fun and applicants must be prepared to accept more senior appointments as we expand. Please telephone 01-483 5351 for an interview.

WINKFIELD PLACE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Presentable and responsible person, over 25 years, required as Administrative Secretary at Winkfield Place. The successful applicant will have charge of the running of the company's accounts, attended by 120 to 150 persons each week. Good typing and shorthand skills essential. Hours 8.00-5.00. Lunch provided. 4 weeks holiday. Start immediately.
Apply: The Principal, Winkfield Place, Winkfield, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0BA. Tel: 0344 82204.

Winkworth & Company Estate Agents

Require a Secretary/Typist for centrally based well established estate agents on the corner of Piccadilly. The right applicant must be young well spoken/presentable and be able to deal calmly and efficiently with a large flow of successful clients and here to join in with the general running of this friendly office. Salary £7,000. Secretary/Typist for small office opening March in Blackheath. Village 500 some young well spoken/presentable and be able to deal calmly and efficiently with a large flow of successful clients and here to join in with the general running of this friendly office. Salary £7,000. All enquiries Jeremy Connor 731 3285.

SECRETARY/PA £9,000

The senior partner of an EC1 based firm of solicitors is looking for a well organised and responsible person with good all round legal experience, excellent working conditions.
Telephone Sue Raymont 930 5733

KENTACOM

PROPERTY WORLD £9,000

Intelligent, motivated, experienced PA/Sec for our Partner of a leading estate agent. Excellent salary and conditions. Varied admin duties. 20%.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRICAL ACCOUNTANCY

Small firm of Covent Garden accountants in Covent Garden, with a reputation for excellence, requires a well qualified, experienced, professional, energetic and motivated person to join their team. Excellent salary and conditions. Please ring Mrs. Hurrell on 01-577 9999

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT IBM WORD PROCESSING

If you are energetic and people-orientated you could fit in well in our hard working, dedicated team of consultants dealing with all facets of IBM WP recruitment and training. The right candidate, who will head up our temporary division, must be good at administrative detail and have an excellent understanding of word processing as well as a positive attitude to sales and marketing. If you would like to know more, please ring Paula Spragg.



WORD PROCESSING DIVISION

BI-LINGUAL PA SECRETARY for Chairman/M.D.

Fluent German and sound commercial experience. Salary c. £9,000.

If you feel you have the qualities and experience to handle this most senior secretarial position within our international organisation, please contact:

Mr M. Tate, Personnel Manager,
WELLA GREAT BRITAIN,
Wella Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 4AF
Tel: Basingstoke 20202

PA / SECRETARY £9,000 p.a. + Car & Benefits

An expanding N.W. London company involved in the offshore oil & gas industry requires a PA/Secretary to work for the operations Director in their Head Office. This is a senior position offering a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties and secretarial duties and calls for someone with a high level of initiative & tact. The successful applicant will preferably have been educated to degree standard, be aged 25+ and have proven ability in a similar capacity. Word processor experience is an advantage but training will be given. No smokers preferred.

For further details please write, enclosing CV to: Personnel Department, Penco Engineering Ltd, 115-122 College Road, Harrow, Middx, HA1 1FN.

RUN THE OFFICE

Rapidly expanding toy design Co. in fantastic new modern office seeks person to assist the informed management team in this dynamic international Co. This is a new position which we find hard to categorise but you must be highly motivated as there is minimal supervision and you'll never be bored. Excellent salary. Please for full job spec. Origin Products Ltd, 10 Lambton Place W11. Tel: 01-221 4109.

Walt Disney Productions Ltd

Lively secretary required for European head of film publicity this is a very interesting position for a go ahead young person preferably with experience in motion picture industry, advertising or similar background, who is accustomed to working on his/her own initiative. Please send for curriculum vitae together with details of current salary and also indicate availability.
Reply in confidence to Personnel (HR) Walt Disney Productions Ltd, 31-32 Soho Square London W1P 6AP

EniChem SECRETARY

Multinational Chemical Company

Eni Chemicals is a European-based multinational chemical concern with an annual sales turnover of \$4.0 billion. The Company also has manufacturing plants in the UK and operates through a network of sales offices in Western Europe. The UK Southern Region Sales Manager is currently seeking a high calibre Secretary to work in the Sales Department.

Responsibilities will include providing secretarial support to the Sales Manager and other key personnel in the Southern Region Sales force. Excellent secretarial skills are essential and applicants should be well organised and motivated to deal with this challenging position. A good working knowledge of Italian will be necessary.

Please reply with CV to:

Susan Aarvold, Personnel,
Eni Chemical (UK) Ltd
John Busch House
277 London Road
Isleworth, Middx TW7 5AX

SWITZERLAND

The Bank of International Settlements, Basle

seeks a fully-trained

SECRETARY/SHORTHAND TYPIST

Age 20-30. Mother tongue English. Good knowledge of German and French.

Excellent working conditions in an international atmosphere. Attractive salary. Five weeks' annual leave. First-class pension and welfare schemes and other benefits. Own sports centre.

Interested applicants are invited to write to the Personnel Section, Bank of International Settlements, 4002 Basle, Switzerland, enclosing a curriculum vitae, references and a photograph.

Applicants will be treated in strict confidence.

LEGAL AUDIO SEC.

for solicitors in Queensway, W2. Salary £8,400 a.s.e., hours 9.00-5.30. A varied role plus bonus, electronic typewriter, Wang WP experience an advantage. Modern office and friendly young staff.
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Smart, intelligent PA with good skills and creative eye for a.s.e. creative eye.
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Confidential work for super gentlemen. Speeds 100/60. age 25+. Cope with personal and office admin duties.
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(Rec. Cons.) 01-636 2116

£7,500 RECEPTIONIST

A firm of two American stockbrokers needs a polished and charming receptionist with typing skills for the City. You'll greet clients, operate a switchboard and take care of a number of international enquiries. They offer a generous benefits package.

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Recruitment Consultants
No 55, East Street, Fenchurch
01-425 1234

Public Appointments



KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON KING'S FUND COLLEGE Fellows in Financial Management and Accounting

The King's Fund College is seeking to appoint three Fellows as a part of a major new initiative in the field of financial management and accounting. The College is an independent, charitable institution concerned with management education and development in the NHS. It also has an active programme of management consultancy with health authorities. The College's activities have been growing rapidly and several Fellows already have interests in financial management. These new appointments reflect the College's developing involvement and interest in the relationship of financial analysis and information to effective health service planning and general management as a whole. To support this growth, the College wishes to make appointments at a senior level which will contribute to its capabilities in one or more of the following areas:

- management budgeting
- capital budgeting and investment appraisal
- financial modelling and information systems development
- value for money audit and cost-improvement programmes

Experience relating to health service management, management development or management consultancy would be an advantage. Although at least one of the three posts will be filled by a qualified accountant, applications from those with related professional or disciplinary backgrounds will also be welcomed.

Applications are invited from those able to demonstrate skills in these or other related areas who could contribute to the teaching, research, consulting and educational development activities of the College.

Appointments of Fellows to the College Faculty are initially for fixed terms of three years but can be extended by mutual agreement. The College's facilities are excellent and currently being extended.

Salaries are normally in the range of £16,823 to £21,538 but Fellows can expect to supplement these in appropriate circumstances from approved management consultancy projects; lunches are provided free of charge.

Further information is available from Iden Wiggins, Acting Director, King's Fund College, 2 Palace Court, London W2 4HS. Telephone: 01-229 9361.

Closing date for applications is 14th December 1984.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Authority District General Manager

Applications are invited for the new post of General Manager who will be directly accountable to the Authority for managing and planning all aspects of health care services.

The Authority provides a comprehensive range of services:

- Serves a population of 432,200
- has a revenue budget of £84m per annum
- employs over 6,500 staff
- has a capital allocation in excess of £27m over the next ten years
- has 29 Hospitals, 22 Health Centres and 16 Ambulance Stations in the District

Candidates with current earnings of probably £25,000 per annum, must have a successful record of general management in a large organisation - public or private - and be capable of leading a multi-professional service.

The appointment will be for an initial fixed term of 3 years, extendable by mutual agreement. Salary will be negotiable.

Further details, including Job Description, available from:-

The District Personnel Officer,
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Authority,
4 St. Clement Vean, Tregolls Road,
Truro, Cornwall, TR1 1NL
(Tel. No. (0872) 74242 Ext. 72.16).

Completed applications should be returned no later than 7th December 1984 to Mr A. D. Coleman, Chairman, at the above address.

Chief Information Officer

up to £15,336 (pay award pending)

Plus car and telephone allowances

The Council has created this post to head a new corporate Information Service for the Royal Borough. Its purpose will be to communicate the Borough's various facilities and activities to the public and to provide a focal point for promoting good relations with the media.

The Chief Information Officer will be responsible for the establishment and development of the service and will report direct to the Council's Senior Officer. The successful applicant will have experience and proven skill in media communication and marketing and have the energy and enthusiasm to improve and follow through with the minimum of day to day supervision. Appropriate qualifications will be an advantage.

Applications forms and other details from the Director of Personnel & Administration, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1EU. (Tel. 01-546 2121 ext 2200).

Closing date: 7th December 1984.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES

Legal Appointments

are featured every

TUESDAY

01-278 9161/5

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Head of Admissions Department

Salary in the range: £8,500-£11,000 (according to age and experience; including London Weighting)

The Admissions Department of the Membership Division of the College is a very busy, vital part of the College's administration, dealing as it does with 1,500 examinees per year in two exam sittings, and taking overall responsibility for the development of means of assessment for membership of the College. As a result of restructuring, a Head of Department is required to take overall responsibility for all the activities of the Admissions Department, including all aspects of the examination process.

The successful applicant will be educated to degree level or equivalent and had responsibility in a managerial capacity for examination administration and/or admissions to membership. Good staff management skills are essential, together with the ability to survive during the stressful peaks that inevitably occur with an examination. The successful candidate will have a sympathetic manner and a good sense of humour and a flexible approach to working hours. The Head of the Admissions Department works directly to the General Administrator and forms part of the College's Departments' Management team. Experience of working in a team environment is therefore desirable.

The College has computer and word processing equipment and familiarity with both would be helpful.

Telephone 01-581 3232 extension 201 for an application form and further details of the College.

Closing date 7 December 1984.

General Appointments

BBC

NEWS PRODUCER RADIO MANCHESTER

£9,348 - £12,660**

To join the newsroom team working primarily on the preparation and production of the station's news output and current affairs programmes, including newsreading, interviewing and reporting. In addition may produce feature programmes and take part in announcing duties. Journalistic experience at sub-editor or reporter level; good microphone voice and current driving licence, essential. (Ref. 3769/T)

ASSISTANT PRODUCER 'Wales Today'

Cardiff

£9,348 - £12,660**

Wales Today, the only BBC regional news programme that goes out every weeknight ahead of the network *Six O'Clock News*, needs an energetic Assistant Producer to join the programme's production team. Our Assistant Producers direct the live transmission of *Wales Today* and also studio recordings. Much of the programme's content is shot using PSC cameras, and there will be opportunities to direct location filming, and work on special programmes. Use of newsroom computer. We need someone with plenty of ideas, imagination, and enthusiasm who can react quickly and positively under pressure. You will already have a good basic knowledge of television production and direction techniques and must be willing to acquire an understanding of the contemporary scene in Wales. (Ref. 3770/T)

**Plus allowance of £916 p.a. *Plus allowance of £537 p.a. Relocation expenses considered. Contact us immediately for application form (quote relevant ref. and enclose s.a.e.): BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5799.

We are an equal opportunities employer

PRODUCER RADIO WM

Based Birmingham

£9,348 - £12,660**

Radio WM, the BBC's local radio station in the West Midlands is looking for an imaginative Radio Producer to work on daily features and magazine programmes. The successful candidate will need at least two years' experience in broadcasting; a proven interest in the aims and philosophy of local radio; a good broadcasting voice and a developed sense of what makes stimulating broadcasting. (Ref. 3757/T)

REPORTER RADIO SOLENT

Based Southampton

£8,038 - £9,552*

We provide a news service unmatched in speed and quality for much of Hampshire, Dorset, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. There are plenty of exciting challenges in a region with commercial and military ports, major tourist centres like the New Forest, first division football and a wealth of other sports all set amidst some of Britain's most attractive countryside and prosperous urban areas. The work will include the preparation, writing and reading of news bulletins but you may occasionally be required to contribute to the general station output as well. You must have a genuine interest in local broadcasting; a good microphone voice; the ability to operate technical equipment and a current driving licence. A knowledge of radio is preferable although we are also interested in experienced newspaper journalists who want to break into broadcasting. (Ref. 3756/T)

OK OK EXPLORATION (UK) LTD GEOLOGIST ACCOUNTANT

The OK Group with headquarters in Sweden is an established oil company with a 1983 turnover of around £1 billion. Its diversified activities include an oil refinery, the marketing of petroleum products, petrol stations and motor hotels. For many years OK has been investing in the various stages of the oil industry and is conducting its UK oil exploration activities through OK Exploration (UK) Ltd.

During 1983, OK Exploration (UK) Ltd acquired a share in the Forties Field which is providing a current turnover of £30m per annum. The company now plans to make two key appointments to supplement its small team based in Central London. The Geologist and the Accountant will both report directly to the Managing Director, and each will enjoy a wide area of responsibility.

GEOLOGIST. The future of the company will be strongly influenced by this person's ability to identify, evaluate and implement projects in the North Sea. The successful candidate will be a qualified geologist with at least five years' experience of oil exploration in the North Sea.

ACCOUNTANT. The person appointed will have responsibility for the financial and administrative functions. For example, he or she will prepare and interpret management accounts and deal with oil taxation matters. Candidates should be qualified accountants with a minimum of five years' experience, at least two of which should ideally have been associated with the oil industry.

These new appointments represent rare opportunities to be in at the beginning of a significant company and to grow with it.

Please write with details and full confidence to:

James Warnock,
Scandinavian
Executive Search Ltd,
14 St Christopher's
Place, London, W1M
5HB. Telephone No:
01-486 6473.

SES
SEARCH & SELECTION

CONFIDENTIAL APPLICANT RESPONSE & EVALUATION AN AD INTERNATIONAL (UK) LTD.

DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTANT

to £15000 p.a.

A major British multi-national corporation needs a qualified accountant for a key role in their expanding health care division. Reporting to the Chief Accountant, responsibilities will include preparation of annual budgets and year end accounts, quarterly forecasts and analysis of monthly accounts. Additionally, you will be developing a sophisticated management information system using an IBM 34 and IBM PC.

Ideally educated to degree level, you should have a professional accountancy qualification and one to two years post qualified management accounting experience.

If you are 24-29, thrive under pressure of tight deadlines and can work on your own initiative, our client offers excellent prospects and usual large company benefits. (Ref. 11/4155)

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

c.£11800 p.a.

A major force in communications based in Central London needs an ambitious young executive to join this highly successful business, operating in a fast moving, competitive environment. Reporting to the Campaign Manager, you will be responsible for identifying market opportunities, developing new P.O.S. literature and monitoring direct mail response.

You should be in your mid to late twenties with at least two years marketing experience behind you, with particular emphasis on generating positive public awareness using effective promotional material.

A degree or business qualification would be desirable; more important are good communicative skills and relevant experience. Excellent career opportunities are offered together with substantial company benefits. (Ref. 11/4151)

EXPORT SALES EXECUTIVE

c.£12500 p.a. + Car

A London based subsidiary of a major British corporation needs a young aggressive executive to market a wide range of specialty chemicals and services in Europe.

Reporting to the Export Sales Manager, you will be implementing sales strategy and selling directly to existing customers in a defined territory.

Additionally you will be responsible for the control and motivation of agents and distributors. Extensive European travel is involved.

Aged 25-35, essential in your background must include the ability to negotiate fluently in German and a degree level education, ideally science or technical based. Knowledge of export procedures would be advantageous. Excellent career opportunities and company benefits apply. (Ref. 11/4152)

YOUNG MARKETING GRADUATE

to £11300 p.a.

A major British corporation with substantial interests in telecommunications is offering an exceptional career opportunity to a young marketing executive.

Based in London, you will report to and assist a senior manager in generating ideas for new product development and receive extensive training in the full range of marketing activities. You will be given ad hoc projects for which you will have total responsibility and be required to work on your own initiative.

It is therefore essential that you have a good honours degree and ideally a post graduate diploma in marketing. This appointment will appeal to a young ambitious graduate, preferably with at least one years proven marketing experience. (Ref. 11/4153)

INTERVIEWS ARE
CONDUCTED DIRECTLY
WITH CLIENT

PHONE
01-242 0307

OR WRITE IN CONFIDENCE TO
AN AD INTERNATIONAL (UK)
LTD 51, 53 GRAYS INN ROAD
LONDON WC1X 8PP

High Technology Exports Specialist Advisers Electronics/Computers

... to join a London-based professional group which is responsible for technical advice on the export of a wide range of high technology items.

The Group is involved in advising UK industry and Government Departments in the technical assessment for export of electronic systems, equipment and their technologies, particularly electronic instruments, computers opto-electronics, semi-conductors including materials, devices, components and associated production equipment. This can include representing the Department of Trade and Industry at meetings both home and abroad on technical matters relating to international export controls. There are currently the following opportunities to participate in this work:

Senior Specialist

... to manage a small technical team specialising in export controls relating to computers.

You should be a Chartered Engineer with several years' professional experience since acquiring chartered

status. You must also have up-to-date knowledge of computer systems and the use of microprocessors. A knowledge of electronic instrumentation, semi-conductors and related equipment plus staff management experience are desirable. The ability to train and supervise staff is essential.

Specialist

... to join a team specialising in export controls relating to instrumentation, semi-conductors and related equipment.

You should have an aggregate of at least 5 years' recognised study and professional training from 'A' levels or equivalent. A longer period of professional experience may be offered in lieu of up to 2 years professional training. You must also have up-to-date knowledge of electronic instrumentation, semi-conductors and related equipment. A knowledge of computer systems and the use of microprocessors is desirable.

For all posts candidates should have a degree in electrical/electronic engineering, computer science or applied physics or have passed the Engineering Council's Part 2 examination in appropriate subjects or have passed the British Computer Society Part II examination or have an equivalent (including overseas) or higher acceptable qualification. They should be able to assimilate quickly and accurately technical detail from brochures, specifications and reports, and be experienced in liaison with industry at a senior level. The ability to communicate technical detail to non-professionals is essential.

At the specialist level, candidates without formal qualification but with substantial relevant work experience will be considered.

SALARY: Senior Specialist £11,780-£14,070; Specialist £8765-£11,465. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience. Salaries quoted include £1300 inner London weighting. Promotion prospects.

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 14 December 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref. T(37)85.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

Department of Trade and Industry

OPPORTUNITIES IN STRATEGY CONSULTING

We are looking for intelligent and capable people who will work well in a cooperative and highly stimulating environment, and who will respond to the challenge of demanding work and a tough schedule, often in different countries.

Braxton Associates is an international management consultancy firm specialising in corporate strategy, operating from offices in the United States and Europe. Demand for the firm's services has grown rapidly, and it is now seeking Consultants and Research Associates with the capability and enthusiasm to contribute to the continuing expansion of its European practice.

Applicants must have a good first degree, fluency in English and at least one other major European language, and sound quantitative skills. Consultant applicants should also have an advanced degree in business administration and several years' business experience.

Highly competitive salaries and an excellent benefits package are on offer. Applicants should anticipate being based in London or Paris initially, with other locations possible in the near future.

For further details, please write, enclosing c.v., to Peter Dixon, Braxton Associates Limited, 1/11 Hay Hill, London W1X 7LF.

● BOSTON ● LONDON
● PARIS ● HOUSTON

HEXCEL (UK) LIMITED/STEVENS
GENIN (LYON) SUBSIDIARIES OF
HEXCEL CORPORATION BASED IN
CALIFORNIA

require a

TECHNICAL SALESPERSON

To sell the Sports/Filtration/Insulation/Automotive Markets within the United Kingdom.

Candidate Profile

- 25-30 years.
- Self-starter currently selling industrial products.
- Good technical comprehension and knowledge of reinforced plastics/resins.
- Fluency in French due to the strong relationship necessary with the manufacturing plant in Lyon.
- Initial training period will be in Lyon.
- Future opportunities abroad are a distinct possibility upon successful completion of current tasks.

Compensation will be salary plus incentive related earnings. A company car is provided, together with normal large company benefits. Apply in first instance to:

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,
Hexcel (UK) Limited,
Catherine House,
63 Guildford Road,
Lightwater, Surrey.

BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Applications are invited for the post of Executive Secretary. The British Dental Association, with 37,000 members, is the independent trade union and professional organisation for dentists. Its trade union role has been significantly expanded in recent years to meet the increased demand for these services. Based in Wimpole Street, this is a new post providing support and assistance to the work for salaried officers in universities, the community services and in industry. The work includes the preparation of agenda and minutes and the routine work involved in the running of committees. With experience a role may develop involving attendance at certain committees outside the Association's structure.

The ability to write clearly and concisely to tight deadlines is essential, and some knowledge of committee work is very desirable. Any knowledge of the structure and workings of Government departments or of negotiating procedures would be helpful. Salary in the range £10,000-£13,000 p.a. Please apply in writing only to: Dr B. C. Patterson, Under Secretary, British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1M 6AA, showing such skills as previous appropriate experience and so on. Closing date: 14th December 1984.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS MANAGER

The National Association of British & Irish Millers (NABIM) is the trade association of the UK flour milling industry. It occupies pleasant offices in St. James's on the edge of Green Park.

A Manager is required by the Industrial Relations Department, which covers national negotiations on Wages & Conditions of employment in the milling industry, advice to member companies on employment legislation, administration of training schemes & health & safety matters.

Essential requirements are managerial experience in the field of industrial relations, proven negotiating ability, a sound knowledge of relevant industrial relations legislation, administrative ability & drafting skills.

The successful applicant will be a graduate between 28-35. Starting salary will be negotiable according to experience in the range of £12,000 - £15,000, with a contributory pension scheme. Letters of application together with Curriculum Vitae to be sent to:

The Secretary, National Association of
British & Irish Flour Millers Ltd., 21 Arlington
Street, London SW1A 1RN not later than
Monday 3rd Dec 1984.

BUYER

Circa £12,000

TOILETRIES/COSMETICS

Continued expansion has resulted in the need for an additional buyer to work within our busy purchasing department. Previous experience within a department purchasing packaging and raw materials within a toiletry, cosmetic or similar industry would be a distinct advantage. Normal large company benefits together with the above salary will be offered to the successful candidate.

Written applications only together with a comprehensive c.v. should be forwarded to:

Mrs J. Stapleton,
ALBERTO-CULVER COMPANY (UK) LTD.,
Handmills Industrial Estate,
Telford Road, Basingstoke,
Hampshire RG21 2YZ

Managing Director Contracting Engineering

Outstanding opportunity exists within an expanding group of engineering companies for an able and dynamic manager to control a materials handling plant and equipment company. He/she will be expected to make a significant contribution to the company's profitability and to maximise its growth opportunities.

Essential qualifications will be:
- a degree or equivalent in civil, mining or mechanical engineering.
- strong market-orientated business sense and commercial ability and flair.
- proven record of successful sales and general management in engineering industry to include materials handling.
- ability to exploit profit and market opportunities and to inspire, direct and control an able team of people.

This important appointment offers substantial salary commensurate with the calibre of the person; participation in profits; car and other fringe benefits.

Apply in strictest confidence quoting Ref. No. 3254.

Business Executive Technical Appointments
Brynmor House East, Brynmor Street, Manchester 2. Tel: 061-834 2594
16 St. James's Place, St. James's London S.W.1. Tel: 01-629 6074

Operations Audit Manager

to £22,000+ Car

In a new and highly responsible position, the Manager will initiate and develop the audit function of the UK activities of our client. The UK group, with a turnover of £500 million, includes activities in publishing, printing and transportation.

Based in London and reporting to New York, he or she will be responsible for conducting financial and operational audits at division level in the UK. With considerable independence, the position provides continual exposure to senior management and the growth of the organisation worldwide should lead to excellent promotion opportunities.

Aged 28-35, applicants should be graduate chartered accountants with managerial experience gained in a major professional practice. Please write, enclosing a career/salary history and daytime telephone number to David Hogg, FCA, quoting reference V/254.

EMA Management Personnel Ltd.
Haiton House, 20/23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD.
Telephone: 01-242 7773 (24 hour).

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

The search for salesmen

Not many salesmen earn, with commission, between £25,000 and £70,000 a year, but they do in the computer industry, according to Eurosurvey the executive-search firm, who says it is becoming increasingly difficult either to poach, or otherwise recruit, Britain's top computer salesmen, for whom demand is now fast outstripping supply. Eurosurvey says that it is equally difficult to identify newly trained salesmen with high-flier and management potential.

A shortage of top computer salesmen has been caused by the big and medium-sized companies - ICL, NCR, LSE Computers - recruiting fewer trainees (or none at all) during the recession. Those lucky enough to have acquired the training earlier have become, as a result of a crisis of confidence brought on by recession, less mobile than before, favouring safe jobs to risky job-changes on an insecure market.

Other factors, too, have contributed to the current shortage of people for what is, by any standard, a technically complicated and demanding sector of the jobs market. These include the abolition of complete sales forces in favour of franchising, the emergence of freelance computer salesmen to relieve companies of the necessity to recruit trainees, and an increasing dependence on sales. Another factor, cited by Eurosurvey, is the "brain drain" to the Middle East.

Eurosurvey believes that it will take several years both for the recession-induced personnel shortage to work its way out of the system and for the recruitment of trainees to recover, as investment becomes more available.

Peter Bryant, Eurosurvey's managing director, says that employers are

Bob Crew on the shortage of computer sales reps

having to make top computer salesmen and sales managers "offer them cannot afford to refuse in order to lure them from their well-paid, safe jobs, on to a market they have come to regard as insecure".

Rapid growth in the computer and telecommunications markets - including office automation and home computers - will, Eurosurvey estimates, result in fierce competition among employers over the next couple of years for sales managers and, in the client companies to whom the systems are sold, information systems managers. There will also, Peter Bryant predicts, "be a greater shortage than there is already of high-tech computer personnel for the 'factories of the future'. Industrial managements won't be able to recruit the electronics engineers they need to cope with the new equipment in which the Government is encouraging them to invest with million-pound grants."

Leslie Miller, chairman of TUKATEG - The United Kingdom Automatic Test Equipment Group - agrees. He says: "Once government grants for computer-aided design and manufacture (cad-cam) have been taken up by industrial managements, and fully computer-integrated manufacturing has become the order of the day, there will be even greater shortages than there are already of personnel to manage the systems. Firms will be headhunting like mad to match the machines on which their

survival depends with people who understand them."

Eurosurvey has an insider's view of the situation as headhunters for personnel in information technology, purchasing management, defence systems, technical and computer management. Peter Bryant believes that, when the information revolution comes, many firms will find that they have not organized themselves to meet it. He says that, in computer software, too, there is a shortage of "trained salesmen to sell and operators to operate" in such areas as "banking, accountancy, building societies and insurance".

According to a salary survey by Reward, computer personnel are better paid in Scotland by 30 per cent - chiefly on account of North Sea oil - than in the rest of the UK. But graduates who are not interested in the sales sector, are less well-paid than the less-qualified who have no aversion to sales. Reward also found that computer executives earned bigger salaries last year (7/8 per cent) than those in private industry outside the computer industry (6.5 per cent).

With common consent, some of the best-trained computer salesmen are either from, or employed by, Hewlett Packard, IBM, and Burroughs and these are the companies who will be endeavouring to hold on to their super salesmen and managers in the years ahead - just as, by the same token, other employers will be anxious to headhunt them. Hewlett Packard's average salesmen are reportedly earning £16,000/32,000 pa (of which 30 per cent is commission).

Already, some employers are giving their top salesmen more such as Digital, offering shares in the company - to stay put.

MARKETPLACE

Recruitment activity appears to be slowing down, even allowing for seasonal variations. Several publishers and advertising agencies handling recruitment advertising report a substantial fall in activity this month.

The HAY-MSL Index, which monitors selected advertisements for managerial and professional staff, reports that demand fell by 3 per cent between the second and third quarters of the year. Even so, the number of advertisements remained 21 per cent up on the third quarter of 1983.

The largest falls were reported for computer posts, down 19 per cent, and for general management, down by 11 per cent over the two quarters. Some growth was reported, with accounting and finance vacancies up 12 per cent and personnel vacancies up 11 per cent.

This is the second quarter in which the index has fallen, and HAY-MSL deputy chairman Garry Long said: "For more than 20 years the index graph has tended to move on a symmetrical pattern of two and a half

years up and two and a half years down. Boosted by rising demand in high technology and in consumer-based industries, the index has been lifting steadily for two and a half years up until the beginning of 1984. These results showing a significant decline in two successive quarters, seem to confirm that the executive recruitment cycle is being maintained."

Mr Long's view that the market turned down early in the year is not entirely supported by other evidence. An analysis of all forms of recruitment advertising carried in the seven quality national newspapers shows real growth at least until the late summer. Even so, there does now appear to be a halt to the market growth and even some signs of a fall.

The major indicator of overall market trends is the number of vacancies flowing into jobs, calculated on a seasonally adjusted basis. In the three months ending in October this averaged 208,000 a month, the highest level since January 1980. However, this was only 2.5 per cent up on the same period last year.

Jobcentre vacancies are claimed to represent a third of the total market, although they may be no more than a quarter. So, even on the most pessimistic basis, employers have recently been recruiting at the rate of two and a half million people a year.

Although recruitment activity may be falling, there is a continuing flow of evidence on skill shortages. The latest is a Gallup survey showing that 57 per cent of firms are now experiencing, or expect to experience, difficulties in recruiting for certain skills, qualifications and experience.

The wide range of shortages concentrated heavily on those with professional, technical or skilled qualifications. Almost three quarters of the firms are looking to in-company training as one of the main means of solving their problems.

The trend towards more flexible patterns of work was confirmed by the survey which reported that over the next five years there will be greater use of part-timers, temporary workers and more contracting out of work.

Philip Schofield

ITON COLLEGE OFFICE OF SENIOR BURSAR

The Bursar is the chief administrative and financial officer of the College responsible to the Provost and Fellows for all bursarial functions. The post will become vacant at the end of 1985 and applications will be considered early next year. Those requiring details should write to the Provost, Iton College, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6DJ.

WEST END ART GALLERY

Requires two trainee Sales Staff aged 20 to 25. Must have good knowledge of history of art and appreciation in subject. It is essential applicants be seriously interested in making a career in Art Dealing. Write with C.V. for interview early December to Box 2811Y The Times.

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General Appointments

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MANAGERS UP TO C. £30,000 + CAR

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CLERICAL UP TO c. £11,000

For these settlement specialists, there will be a high degree of job satisfaction and excellent working conditions in modern offices using the latest equipment. Also, as our Client continues to develop its broking and financial services activities, career and promotion prospects are bright. Applications in strict confidence under reference 16206/TT stating clearly which level of appointment you are applying for, will be forwarded unopened to our Client unless you list companies to which they should not be sent in a covering letter marked for the attention of the Security Manager: CJRA.

Prospects exist to head up the management services operation within 3-5 years

CJA

ADMINISTRATION CONTROLLER - FINANCIAL SERVICES

EAST MIDDLESEX

£19,000-£25,000

EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES FIELD

This vacancy calls for candidates aged 35-42 who have acquired not less than 6 years practical experience in administration involving high volume document processing and at least 2 years either heading up, or as the number two, controlling and motivating a team of 50+, utilising modern business systems. The successful candidate will report to the Managing Director and will be part of the Senior Management Team. Close liaison will be maintained with heads of Marketing, Data Processing and the Financial Controller. The ability to lead, motivate, relate effectively to clients, and play a significant commercial role in the company's continued growth and profitability is important. Initial salary negotiable £19,000-£25,000, + car, contributory pension, free medical insurance and free life assurance, assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference ACFS 4298/TT, to the Managing Director: CJA.

Scope exists for equity participation and to become Managing Director within 12-18 months

CJA

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR - FINANCIAL ADVERTISING

LONDON - CITY

£12,500-£21,000

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

This vacancy is open to Account Executives, aged 28-35, who have acquired at least 3 years successful financial advertising account management experience with significant account development experience. The successful candidate will be called upon to develop new business from the Group's substantial client portfolio plus carving out a further profitable share of the market, mainly through his/her established contacts. Excellent back up facilities exist. The commercial capability to meet the challenge of successfully building up the financial advertising arm in a well established Group is key to the success of this operation. Initial salary negotiable, £12,500-£21,000 + car, contributory pension, free life assurance. Applications in strict confidence under reference SAEF 4299/TT, to the Managing Director: CJA.

35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-638 9218.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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At least 3 years' tenure on secondment, severance grant on leaving.
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Further details and application form (to be returned by closing date) available from:
Head of Establishment Division
Council of Europe
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67006 Strasbourg Cedex
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As a self starter (aged c40 years) you will possess proven man-management skills with a capacity to handle a variety of challenges within the internal operating structure. You will probably have a broking background, with a good current knowledge of the market, a strong personality; necessary to ensure both efficient problem solving and effective co-ordination and control. Occasional overseas visits will be required and the salary will not be a limiting factor for candidates with proven expertise and potential.

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Applications are invited from International Placing Brokers. You will possess a minimum of three years experience (age indicator early to mid 20's) ideally having specialised in the casualty sector though high calibre candidates with a property background will also be considered. An intimate knowledge of the supporting market and a high level of initiative and determination are essential personal attributes.
Interested applicants should telephone Charles Reeves ACII on 01-404 5751 or write to him at the Banking & Finance Division, Michael Page Partnership, 23 Southampton Place, London WC1A 2BP quoting ref. 3438. Strictest confidentiality is assured.

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BIZERBA

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We are the UK subsidiary of the internationally respected West German Company, Bizerba-Werke, who manufacture food machinery of exceptional quality. We already have a highly successful sales team but our continued growth has created the need for additional sales personnel.

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We offer a choice of remuneration packages which include an attractive salary plus commission and comprehensive training, a commission only package, free medical insurance and a pension scheme.

Interested? Then act now and phone Hazel Hemphill (0442) 40751 or write with C.V. to: Phil Varney, Sales Training Manager, Bizerba (UK) Ltd, Bizerba House, Eastham Drive, Eastman Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 7DU.

MEANS BUSINESS

Sales Manager

A leading midlands manufacturer of pipe fittings requires an experienced Sales Manager. The company sells to established stockists and to the petro chemical industry and has significant export sales.

Candidates should ideally be between 35-45 years with a proven track record who are prepared to travel extensively both in the U.K. and abroad and a good knowledge of one European language would be an advantage. Salary and benefits package negotiable.

The successful candidate could expect to be appointed Sales Director within 2/3 years if suitable.

Please reply in writing giving full career and personal details to:

Kimberley, Morrison, Moore & Co.,
Portman House, 5/7 Temple Row West,
Birmingham B2 5JN.

GENERAL MANAGER

(BUCKINGHAMSHIRE)

required by a well-known newsreel and film library of leading American film corporation. The person would plan and implement strategy for the company's short and medium term future.

A strong marketing background is required together with the ability to plan and negotiate effectively at all levels.

A knowledge of the film and video industry in general would be an advantage though not essential.

Salary and benefit package are open to negotiation.

Applications in writing including C.V. should be sent to Box 0398W The Times.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Cotswold Furniture Company are manufacturers of high quality furniture.

They require Sales Executive for London and the Home Counties to call on designers, decorators and specifiers.

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Sue Collins
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